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Church, 1906-1956



IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1906 • 1956



Irvington Presbyterian Church

1906 • 1956

A HISTORY

OBSERVANCE OF FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY • JUNE 10, 1956

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“You enter this Church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your Heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal men and women and children who in the name of God builded this place of worship, and to all who have beautified and hallowed it with their prayers and praises. May all who love this home of faith find the inspiration of their labor, and rejoice in the power and love of God, that His blessing may rest on you, both in your going out and your coming in.”

(FROM A 12TH CENTURY CHURCH
AT BOLDRE, HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND)

IRVINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
1956

Foreword

A BRITISH MINISTER has observed that "the modern city congregation has little sense of continuity with the past, little sense of tradition or its value."

It is true that many people are little concerned about history. For example, a baseball team won a cherished pennant. Shortly before the next season the manager said, "We don't live on history in this business. In this business history means nothing." Of course, we know what he meant. It is possible for us to be so preoccupied with the past that we stand still and need the ancient command spoken to Moses, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."

Yet, it is a weakness to neglect history. More than a decade ago Dr. John A. Mackay wrote the book "Heritage and Destiny." The first chapter bears the provocative title "The Road to Tomorrow Leads Through Yesterday," and starts out: "There are times in the history of persons and peoples, particularly times of crisis, when a rediscovery of yesterday opens a new pathway to tomorrow, when the awakening of a sense of heritage becomes a potent determinant of destiny. But all depends upon the yesterday to which men go back for a fresh start."

We need above all to go back to the wellspring of our Judaeo-Christian heritage. A tiny part of that heritage now comes to us in the life and history of the Irvington Presbyterian Church during the last fifty years.

These have been years of world revolution and transition. But the Church of Jesus Christ has foundations which cannot be shaken. Engraved on the outside of our building are the words "On the Rock of Ages Founded."

In the bloodiest century of all history our Church stands as a steady witness to Him Who is the Hope of the world.

We have been blessed through the years. In many ways this is a great Church—made great by the grace of God and by consecrated leaders and a devoted people. You will feel something of its greatness

as you read the following pages. And you will realize that here we have only an infinitesimal part of the real story. If it could be fully written, this history would contain countless volumes telling of thousands of people—most of them quite ordinary—who by the grace of Christ have become extraordinary, who have dreamed dreams and seen visions. It would be a record of unheralded fortitude, of sins forgiven, of battles won.

The writing has been done by Miss Emily McAdams, the first woman elder of our Church, a teacher of exceptional gifts, and one of the outstanding Christian leaders of Indiana Synod. She is now 82 years of age. Some months ago she had a slight stroke. Shortly afterwards she was operated on for the removal of a cataract. She sees with difficulty. It has been necessary for people to read to her and for her to rest her eyes frequently during the writing of these pages. Yet she has done her work with characteristic zest, humor and high spirits. Truly this has been an heroic undertaking, a labor of love. In a sense her work is symbolic of the resolution characteristic of our fathers through the years.

After appropriating that which is best in our heritage, and only then, can we say with the apostle Paul, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

HOWARD W. STONE

*The Study
Irvington Presbyterian Church
Indianapolis, Indiana
February 29, 1956*



Acknowledgments

IT IS WITH A SENSE of humility that this book is presented to you—the members of the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

History is said to be the recorded pilgrimage of the soul of man.

So much of faith and hope and courage goes into the life of a Church that cannot be made a matter of record.

We are deeply grateful to the few remaining charter members who have shared their memories with us; to the Clerks of Sessions and first Trustees for their records; to the Church office for the bulletins from which significant items have been gathered; to leaders of organizations and departments; to Dr. Allison and Dr. Ferguson for their contributions; to Miss Martha Cunningham for her hours of oral reading.

The material for the life and work of Dr. Jonathan C. Day is taken largely from the local paper edited by Miss Ann Hall.

The information on symbolism is from the leaflet prepared by Mr. Merritt Harrison, architect of the present Church building.

Since history selects only the most outstanding achievements, trifles are usually passed over. However, some seeming trifles are here recorded to color the background.

Many may ask why the account or picture of this event or of that person is not included. An effort has been made to present as complete an account of our pilgrimage of fifty years as the space and material would permit.

EMILY McADAMS



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CHAPTER I

"In the Beginning . . ."

THE Irvington Presbyterian Church is celebrating a half century of growth June 10, 1956.

In the early history of Irvington, a small town east of Indianapolis, there were attracted, among others, several Presbyterian families seeking homes in a quiet, refined atmosphere.

For a few years, the Presbyterians shared the fellowship of the congregations of the Disciples and Methodist Churches which were already established. But, as the community grew in population, the Presbyterians looked forward hopefully to seeing their longing for a Presbyterian Church fulfilled.

As early as the spring of 1897, invitations were sent out to Presbyterian families calling for the organization of a Sunday School. Later several conferences were held to discuss the advisability of establishing a Church. These efforts crystallized in 1906 when a public meeting was held to take whatever preliminary action might be necessary.

This meeting was held in Public School 57. Amos W. Butler presided and Fred B. Ropkey acted as secretary.

After a full discussion of the subject which revealed strong desire for the establishment of a Presbyterian Church, a committee on temporary organization was appointed, consisting of Amos W. Butler, James G. Kingsbury and Charles J. Orbison. The assistance of the Reverend I. M. Houser, an officer of Synod, who devoted much of his time to the establishment of Sunday Schools and Churches throughout the state, was secured. He circulated the petition which was the first step in the founding of the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

The committee carried to Indianapolis Presbytery this petition with 123 signatures, asking to be organized into a Presbyterian Church.

The petition was granted and a permanent organization effected June 10, 1906, at a meeting held in the auditorium of School 57.

The Reverend Owen Davies O'dell, Moderator of the Indianapolis Presbytery, presided and Miss Florence E. Dillan was elected clerk.

The program of that meeting was as follows:

PROGRAM

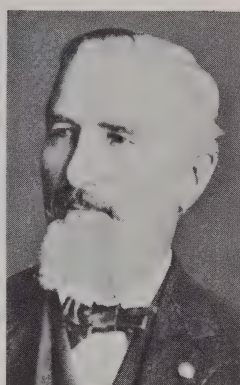
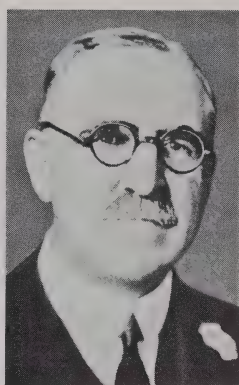
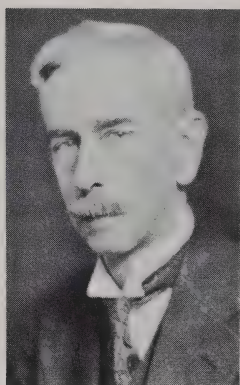
- 1 Anthem—Butler College Glee Club
- 2 Doxology
- 3 Invocation The Reverend C. A. Foreman
- 4 Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy*
- 5 Scripture, Acts II The Reverend George B. Troub
Pastor of Troub Memorial
- 6 Prayer The Reverend G. L. Mackintosh
Pastor of Fourth Church
- 7 Solo: *Blessed Are They That Love Thee* Professor Frederic Reddall
- 8 Statement of the purpose of the meeting Dr. O. D. O'dell, Moderator
of Indianapolis Presbytery
- 9 Reading of the names of the Charter Members
- 10 Election of Elders, Deacons and Trustees
- 11 Ordination and Installation of Officers Dr. O'dell
- 12 Hymn: *Ye Servants of God*
- 13 Announcements The Reverend Herman E. Martens
- 14 Offertory
- 15 Solo: *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* Mrs. Harriet Darling
- 16 Address: *The Child in the Church* The Reverend I. M. Houser
- 17 Address: *The Genius of Presbyterianism* Dr. Neil McPherson
- 18 Hymn: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*
- 19 Address: *The Place of the Individual in the Church*
The Reverend Frank C. Hood
- 20 Address: *Presbyterianism in Irvington*
The Reverend David Ayrton Herron
- 21 Address: *A Forecast* The Reverend James C. Burt
- 22 Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*
- 23 Benediction The Reverend Charles G. Sterling

At the place designated on the program, officers were elected as follows:

ELDERS: Amos W. Butler (father of Mrs. Merritt Harrison), James G. Kingsbury (father of Elder James L. Kingsbury), Hubert L. Griswold, G. C. Babcock, Charles J. Orbison.

DEACONS: O. L. Black, Edgar A. Perkins (father of Mrs. Phillip Lyon), Thomas H. Kaylor (father of Mrs. Harold Wright), H. E. Martens, W. M. Morrison.

TRUSTEES: James L. Kingsbury (Elder Layman Kingsbury's father), John W. Friday, Fred B. Ropkey, George Thormeyer, Thomas M. Richardson (Elder Louis Richardson's father).



FRED B. ROPKEY

JAMES L. KINGSBURY

JOHN W. FRIDAY

GEORGE THORMEYER

These four men served on the first Board of Trustees along with Thomas M. Richardson (see page 31)

The Elders and Deacons were ordained by Dr. O'dell, the moderator, and the Trustees installed.

Dr. O'dell offered prayer and, in the name of and by the authority of the Indianapolis Presbytery, the Irvington Presbyterian Church was declared duly constituted.

If the length of the program at this organization meeting was prophetic of the longevity of the Irvington Presbyterian Church, the Church has a great future.

At the Session meeting of June 17, 1906, a committee consisting of the Moderator, two members of the Session, two Deacons and two Trustees was appointed to draw up Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. On Sunday, July 1, a Congregational Meeting was held in the auditorium of School 57 and the following adopted: "We, the subscribers hereto, citizens of the United States and residents of the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, desiring to form and incorporate an association not for pecuniary gain or profit, under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Indiana, do hereby adopt the following certification of organization."

Articles of Incorporation followed with the signatures of Charles Gordon Sterling, Charles John Orbison, Thomas Hood Kaylor, Herman E. Martens, George Thormeyer, Fred B. Ropkey. Incorporation papers were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Indiana and the Irvington Presbyterian Church became an incorporated body.

The following named persons petitioned the Indianapolis Presbytery to establish a Presbyterian Church in Irvington, and signified their intention of becoming charter members:

Babcock, Guilford C.	*Kingsbury, John K.	Porter, A. L.
Babcock, Mrs. Alida K.	*Kaylor, Thomas H.	Price, Katherine M.
Billings, Rose Edith	Linder, Mrs. Maria	Pierce, M. A.
Billings, Mrs. Mary J.	Locke, Daisy	Pierce, Hattie D.
Burt, Mrs. J. C.	McGaughey, Clara	Robbins, Fred M.
Burt, Anna H.	McGaughey, Mary S.	Robbins, Mrs. Eva V. S.
Black, Oscar L.	McGaughey, Robert	Ropkey, Fred B.
Black, Mrs. Carrie H.	McGrew, R. C.	Ropkey, Mrs. Fred B.
Black, Helen Esther	McGrew, Mrs. R. C.	Ropkey, Mrs. Mary
Black, John A.	Martens, Herman E.	Richardson, John F.
Brewer, H. G.	Martens, Mrs. Bertha A.	Richardson, Thomas A.
Brewer, Mrs. H. G.	Martens, Ruth	*Richardson, Louis
Brewer, H. K.	Martens, Julia	Richardson, Thomas M.
Butler, Amos W.	Martens, Freda	Richardson, Mrs. Thomas M.
Butler, Mrs. Mary R.	Moorhead, Robert L.	Stewart, E. E.
Butler, Will R.	Martin, Elmer	Stewart, Alta M.
Cash, Laura J.	Martin, Lillie R.	Stewart, Marie H.
Caldwell, Mrs. Lula	Martin, Louella C.	Simpson, Margaret
Davis, M. W.	Martin, Elizabeth	Simpson, Miss M. E.
Davis, Mary P.	Morrison, D. D.	Steinhauser, Mrs. E. M.
Dillan, Mrs. Lavina L.	Morrison, Mrs. D. D.	Steinhauser, A. F.
Dillan, Florence Eva	Morrison, Walter M.	Towles, Mrs. Ruth A. E.
Downey, Mrs. H. T.	Orbison, Charles J.	Tompkins, Mrs. J. H. F.
Friday, J. W.	Orbison, Mrs. Ella R.	Tompkins, Elizabeth
Friday, Mrs. Stella L.	Olsen, Mrs. Elizabeth	Tompkins, J. H. F.
Friday, Ethel R.	*Olsen, Edith	Thormeyer, George B.
Griggs, Mrs. J. E.	(Mrs. Earl Lawson)	Thormeyer, Caroline
Griggs, Charlotte	Owens, Anna P.	Thormeyer, Agnes
Griswold, L. Herbert	Potter, S. L.	Talkenberg, Bernard
Griswold, Mrs. Sara R.	Potter, Mrs. S. L.	Talkenberg, Carl
Griswold, Dorothy R.	Potter, Raymond	Wilson, Isaac
Heaton, Mrs. L. G.	*Potter, Mayme	Wilson, Alice
Heaton, Mrs. E. J.	(Mrs. Harvey Ferguson)	Wylie, Andrew
Hornhorst, Mrs. Wm.	Potter, W. A.	Wylie, Jean
Jolly, Robert	Perkins, Edgar A.	Wylie, Jean N.
Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth	Perkins, Mrs. Edgar A.	Weesner, B.
Johnson, Mitta	Perkins, Roger	Woodmansee, J. S.
Kingsbury, J. G.	*Perkins, Harry	Wood, Mrs. E. L.
Kingsbury, Mrs. Kate M.	*Perkins, Edgar A. Jr.	Woods, David L.
Kingsbury, J. L.	Porter, John	Woods, Mrs. Ida B.
Kingsbury, Mrs. Minnie K.	Porter, Mrs. Sarah	*Woods, Merrill J.
*Kingsbury, Layman		Yarnell, Mrs. Adah J.

*Living continuous charter members

CHAPTER II

The Significance of the Small

“**IT** [the kingdom of God] *is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his garden; and it grew and became a tree.*”
LUKE 13:19A

The Church maintained a steady growth from the beginning. A record of attendance was kept and letters were sent to those who were attending worship services but were not Church members, inviting them to join.

The Session records show that at practically every monthly meeting new members appeared before the Session, to be publicly received at the next communion service. Frequently members were received at a Session meeting following the morning service. Evidently time and a late Sunday dinner were of no great importance as in these modern times.

For the first two years Session and Board meetings, also weekly prayer meetings, were held in the homes of members. During the first summer and early fall Sunday School and preaching services were held Sunday afternoons in the auditorium of School 57. The pulpit was supplied by members of Indianapolis city Churches and records show that the congregation was deeply grateful to the following ministers:

Owen Davies O'dell, Second Presbyterian Church; M. L. Haines, First Presbyterian Church; George L. Mackintosh, pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, later, president of Wabash College; I. M. Houser, secretary of Synod; Neal McPherson, pastor of Tabernacle Church, George B. Troub of Troub Memorial, D. A. Herron of Seventh Presbyterian Church; A. F. Sauter, C. Forman and Frank C. Hood of East Washington Presbyterian Church, now Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In September the services of the Reverend Charles G. Sterling were secured to fill the pulpit and conduct midweek prayer meetings until a permanent minister could be secured to shepherd the new Church.

September 30, 1906, the Session changed the time of services and the place of meeting. Beginning with the following Sunday, October 8, Sunday School was to meet at 9:45 in Odd Fellow Hall on Washington Street and the preaching service at 10:45.

The first financial report to the Congregational Meeting is of interest.

Receipts

April 1, 1906—Balance on hand	\$.85
For pastor's salary and current expenses	838.60
Unclassified	305.36
Benevolences	63.60
Building fund.	16.00
Total	<u>\$1,224.41</u>

Disbursements

Pastor's salary and current expenses	\$ 650.00
Janitor's hire	24.00
Rent	117.30
Stationery and postage	49.40
Benevolences	59.80
Total	<u>\$ 960.85</u>

Balance on hand April 1, 1907 \$ 263.56

Distributed as follows:

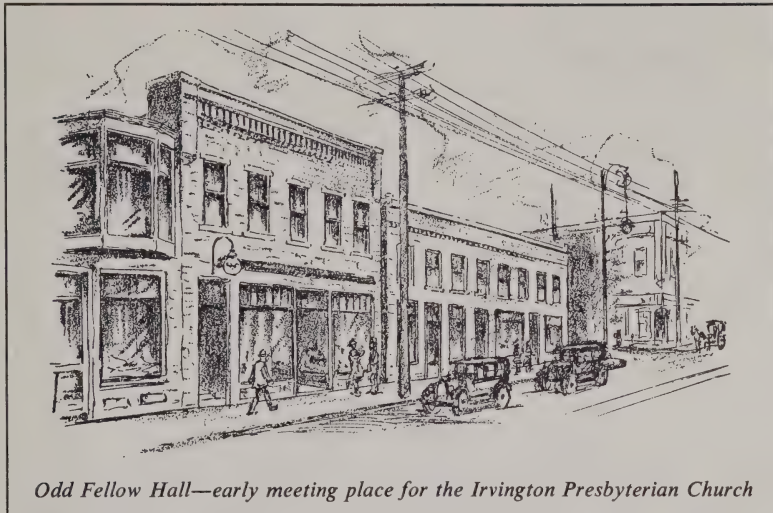
Pastor's salary and current expenses	\$243.76
Benevolences.	3.80
Building fund	16.00
Total	<u>\$263.56</u>

The report of the Bible School for the first year gives an average attendance of 85.

Number of pupils belonging to Church	54
Expenses for school.	\$110.02
To benevolences.	12.58
Balance in treasury	62.71

Comparing the reports of that first Congregational Meeting in 1907 with the reports given in 1956 it would seem that the "mustard seed" has "become a tree."

Meanwhile, the women of the Church "had a mind to work." Before the Church was formally organized, steps were taken to form a Ladies' Aid Society and on March 8, 1906, it got off to a working start with twenty-one members.



Odd Fellow Hall—early meeting place for the Irvington Presbyterian Church

The significance of the small is well illustrated by this little energetic group.

Those of us who find it difficult to give two hours once a month to our Circles might profit by their report to the first annual Congregational Meeting: Four all-day meetings. Twenty half-day meetings. Two evening meetings for the congregation and friends. One lawn fete.

At these socials refreshments were served free. The expenses were met by each woman paying a small sum.

One evening entertainment was given in the auditorium of School 57 for which a charge was made. A “dollar social” was held at the home of Mrs. Olsen, for which each woman had previously earned a dollar. Mrs. Edgar A. Perkins in reporting how she “earned” her dollar gave the following original poem:

*The moonlight o'er the tree was gently peeping
And found me in my bedroom softly creeping,
And as the moon stole slowly overhead
I stole a dollar from the sleeping Ed.*

(NOT IN THE SESSION RECORD)

Throughout the year aprons, comforts and quilts were made and sold. The membership doubled the first year.

The first money designated for the purchase of a lot was from the sale of a quilt made in the home of Mrs. Oscar Black. The picture of that quilt is among the Church archives.

Mrs. Yarnell, treasurer of the Aid, turned over to the Church treasurer that first year \$136.08. Of this sum, \$100 was designated to be used toward the purchase of a lot for a Church building. The officers that first year were: president, Mrs. A. H. Towles; vice-president, Mrs. Edgar I. Heaton; secretary, Mrs. O. L. Black; treasurer, Mrs. O. W. Yarnell (mother of Mrs. Robert Hamilton).

This organization continued to function for many years, doing such work, financial and social, as usually falls upon Church women. It merged with the Women's Association in 1932.

The Women's Missionary Society

The Women's Missionary Society was organized early in our Church life. The program of 1908-1909 gives the officers as: president, Mrs. J. C. Burt; secretary, Mrs. C. P. Aten; treasurer, Mrs. D. L. Woods. Members of the executive committee were Mrs. D. H. Jenkins, Mrs. Abbie Bryce, Mrs. L. H. Griswold, Mrs. J. L. Kingsbury, Miss Mary Bruce and Miss Lillie Martin. Their program would astound the women of our present-day Association. Both foreign and national missions were presented at each meeting. During that year nine foreign countries and as many subjects relating to national missions were studied.

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society continued until the merger with the Women's Association in 1932.

In the beginning the organizations were few and small in membership, but they became an important part of the Church life.

A Junior Christian Endeavor was organized from among children of the Sunday School in 1906 and a Senior Christian Endeavor December 11, 1906, with 26 members.

The Senior society continued through the late twenties.

The first boys' class was organized in 1906 with Herman Martens as teacher, from which Troop 3 of the Boy Scouts was recruited.

Troop 3, Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts is not a Church organization, but Troop 3 has been sponsored throughout its history by our Church and therefore claims a place in our history.

Troop 3 is one of the oldest Troops in the Central Indiana Council and in the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, having been in continuous registration for the entire forty-six years that Scouting has existed in the United States. It received its charter December 10, 1910. Elmer Martin was active in its organization.

Each year the Troop has registered from 23 to 70 boys and it is estimated that over 900 boys have lived and worked in the Troop during its existence. Eighty-three of these became Eagle Scouts between the years 1924 and 1956. Three Explorer Scouts received their God and Country Awards this year (1956).

For a period of twenty-eight years Troop 3 did not fail to advance one or more boys to Eagle rank each year. In 1929 the Parent Council of Troop 3 was organized and has been a constant, active help to succeeding Scoutmasters. The Council has been of invaluable help in raising funds for tents, trailers and a great deal of other equipment, all of which gives Troop 3 the reputation of being one of the best outfitted troops in this area.

Cub Scouts of America Pack 3 was organized in 1945. Meets on third Tuesday of the month at 7 P.M.; Joseph Trobaugh, Cubmaster.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 3. Meets on Tuesday at 7 P.M.; John F. Wiggins, Scoutmaster.

Explorer Scouts Post 3 was organized in 1949. Meets Tuesday at 7 P.M.; Richard Lancaster, Adviser.

District Commissioner, Earl Surgener; Chairman Troop Committee, William O'Connell; President Parent Council and Assistant Scoutmaster, Arthur Keller.

Theodore Kingsbury, a Scoutmaster of the earlier days, recalls some of the experiences of the boys.

In the earliest days of Scouting, there was no centralized organization to guide the work of the Troop as there is today and the boys had to plan and work out much of their own activities.

They had an interesting council of Church members—James L. Kingsbury, Charles Orbison, Marshall Lupton and Sam Potter.

At the first meetings such instructions were given as the members of the Council and Scoutmasters were qualified to give, an important part of which was the wise counsel by some of the men of the Church. Some of the boys had hobbies which were developed and taken up by other boys at the meetings. The training in first aid was one of the first things undertaken, which recalls an interesting evening. The Scouts

had arranged for an ice cream social on the west lawn of the Church. It was so well attended that the supply of ice cream was exhausted early in the evening and more had to be obtained at local drug stores.

The Scouts gave several demonstrations of their handwork and then came the big demonstration of the evening. As pre-arranged, a boy slipped and fell on the steps of the front entrance to the Church. He gave such a cry of pain that several rushed to him. Then the Scouts took over. They cleared the space around the scene of the supposed accident, gave first aid, brought an improvised stretcher consisting of two poles and two of the boys' coats and bore their comrade away in triumph.

On excursions the boys liked to hike to some place along Fall Creek. They did not have Scout uniforms then and each boy carried a blanket, a pie pan, a tin cup, a few cooking utensils and his own provisions. These were either wrapped in a bundle and strapped to the back or were made into a roll in the blanket and carried over the shoulder.

Troop 3 has had a long list of able and faithful Scoutmasters. The four serving the longest terms are Earl F. McNelly, five years; Frank H. Osler, five years; Charles H. Carr, four years, and Merrill Woods, four years.

Six of the boys of Troop 3 gave their lives for their country in World War II: John W. McPheeters, Louis W. Bruck Jr., Robert G. Smith, Robert S. Dickerson, John P. Ragsdale Jr. and Edward M. Ragsdale.

The Philathea Class

The Philathea Class, an international Bible study organization, was organized in 1908. The word "Philathea" means "Lovers of Truth." A charter was applied for and received during the first year. The Class was a "dependable, aggressive ally wherever there was work of the Church to be done" (from a talk given at the Church's twenty-fifth anniversary).

In those early days the Class lived up to its motto, "We do things." Other organizations in later years have taken over much of the work the Philatheas used to do.

They directed many of the Church suppers and social activities. The first "Family Night Dinner" in the new brick Church (described in Chapter IV) was managed by Mrs. Walter Wagoner (Grace) and



PARKING PROBLEM: *How many "Merry Widow" hats the size of Edith Schowe's could be parked on the back seat of a Model T Ford?*

she managed many others. A roster was kept of those present at that first supper and only two active members of our Church at the present time were at that supper: Mrs. Daniel E. (Edna) Kramer and Mrs. Louis (El Dean) Dochez.

Business meetings were held ten months of the year and for a short time there was a mission study program. But soon the programs became social and many festive parties were held, sometimes for the husbands. The Philatheas became valuable to the Church by taking over the project of visiting newcomers to the community and strangers in the Church. They assumed responsibility for furnishing flowers and decorating the Church for special occasions.

A few items gleaned from the records of early days show some of the work:

\$5.00 contributed for rental of chairs for a classroom.

\$1.00 toward buying a map for the Sunday School.

\$2.75 for a share for the Church fund.

A lamp for the pulpit.

\$1.50 each month to a home mission school in the Southern Mountains.

Sewing bags and sachet bags made for the girls at Faith Home and the Kentucky school at Pine Ridge.

Social for the Methodist Philathea Class.

Social for the Philathea Class at the Downey Avenue Christian Church.

In November, 1917, 79 calls made.

15 Bibles sent to Faith Home.

Provisions sent to the Day Nursery at the Cosmopolitan Mission.

In November, 1916, \$100 subscribed to the Church debt—the money to be raised by sacrificial giving, placed in sealed boxes.

50 cents per week paid into the Church treasury, 5 cents of which was designated for benevolence.

Two outstanding dramatic events were given as a benefit to buy Liberty Bonds.

“The Womanless Wedding,” directed by Mrs. Walter Wagoner, was held in Carr’s Hall. Rehearsals were held during the flu epidemic of 1918 and the actors wore masks.

“The Old Maids’ Association” was given in the Irving Theater during the Fifth Liberty Loan Drive.

Both of these shows created a lot of fun and raised a neat sum for Liberty Bonds.

As years went by, the Philatheas became more sedate but remained faithful to the Sunday Bible Class and dispensed charity where there was need.

Many discussions incident to finances, etc., came before the group. One—should money be taken from the treasury to buy gifts for brides who were members of the class. This question was precipitated by the approaching marriage of Bonnie Major to Louis Richardson.

Ann Butler (Mrs. Merritt Harrison) was given a picnic at Riverside Park in honor of her departure to Winona Lake to study music for the summer.

During the last ten years of its existence as a Sunday School Class, the Philathea Christmas parties held at the home of the Misses Caroline and Emily McAdams and the June picnics in the summer at the home of Clara Rubin will be remembered with pleasure.

Since the organization of the Women’s Association the work formerly done by the Philatheas has been taken over by the Association. The Philatheas now serve through the Church Circles.

For various reasons the Class discontinued the Sunday meetings and now meets monthly for a luncheon and social period, followed by Bible study with Emily McAdams, leader.

As a class they still make small contributions to Church causes and dispense cheer at Christmas time.

The Class will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1958, the only organization in the Church to continue that long. It is remarkable that through the years it has had only five teachers: Miss Florence Dillan, Miss Bertha Thormeyer, Mrs. W. W. Wilson, Miss Emily McAdams and Mr. A. C. Van Arendonk.

The report of the Session at the first annual Congregational Meeting in April, 1907, closed with these words:

"Grateful to Almighty God for the present prosperous condition of this newly organized Church, we go forward with renewed zeal, realizing that the Church will be successful in the future in so far as it realizes its divine mission to perpetuate the great principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man."

Forward With Difficulties

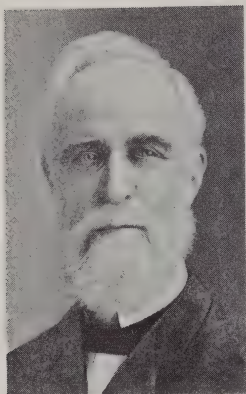
Those were noble words with which the first Congregational Meeting closed—words born of faith. But was the "condition" as "prosperous" as would seem to men and women of less faith, sacrificial spirit and determination?

Reports do not tell the whole story. The minutes of the first Board of Trustees reveal difficulties that at times, without faith in God and the divine mission of the Church, would have seemed unsurmountable.

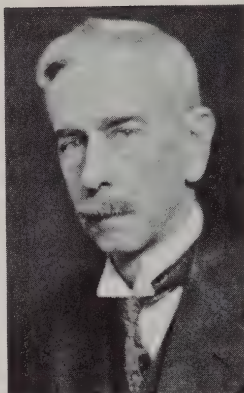
The Board of Trustees met for organization June 19, 1906, at the home of James L. Kingsbury.

The following officers were elected: president, George Thormeyer; treasurer, James L. Kingsbury; secretary, Fred B. Ropkey.

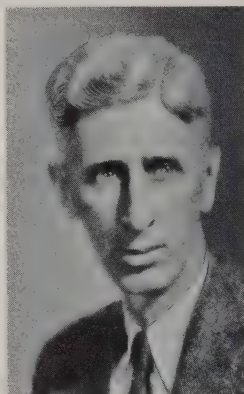
August 20, the Board met at the home of T. M. Richardson and discussed the question of securing funds and a lot for building purposes. It was decided to present to a joint Board Meeting a resolution asking that 50 percent of all undesignated funds donated at any of the regular preaching services of the Church be given to the Trustees for the purpose of a building fund. The Board evidently had faith that their request would be granted for they appointed James L. Kingsbury and John W. Friday to investigate building sites and secure options if possible.



JAMES G. KINGSBURY



JAMES L. KINGSBURY



LAYMAN D. KINGSBURY

Members of a pioneer family of the Church—all three have served on the Session

The Session and Boards in joint meeting granted the request of the Trustees. But the congregation was small during the summer and the amount given to the building fund meager.

The Board had two meetings in September to discuss building sites but decided that nothing definite should be done until a regular minister was called.

With all its difficulties it now seemed that the Irvington Presbyterian Church had proved to be no longer an experiment and it seemed advisable to call a resident minister. Jonathan C. Day, a senior in McCormick Theological Seminary, was called January 1, 1907, to be stated supply.

DR. JONATHAN C. DAY
1907-1910



CHAPTER III

"The Strength of the Hills"

IN HIS EARLY LIFE Jonathan C. Day, commonly called "Jack," was a mountaineer in the fullest sense of that term. He was born in Kentucky and was representative of the best of the hill people—tall, stalwart, industrious, kindly and able, ambitious for a fuller life. He planted and hoed corn and tobacco, split wood, and until he was eighteen years of age could neither read nor write.

But when, through National Missions, word trickled into the hill country that a college had been established in the foothills, where willing youth could earn their way through college, Jack wrapped his few extra clothes in a bundle, walked twenty miles to a railroad station and boarded the train for Tusculum College.

He was a good student and soon became proficient in all his studies. He became especially distinguished as a speaker and debater.

He had a divine urge to give himself to full-time Church service and on graduation from college entered McCormick Theological Seminary to prepare for the Christian ministry. In January before being graduated from McCormick he became the stated supply for the newly organized Irvington Presbyterian Church. His sermons, leadership and general popularity met with such hearty and enthusiastic approval that the congregation soon afterwards called him to be their resident pastor, June, 1907.

He served the Church acceptably and efficiently until September 1, 1910, when he became pastor of a Presbyterian Church at Tyron, Pa. While there he received a call to be the director of Labor Temple, a great social institution on New York's east side. The *Herald and Presbyter*, a Presbyterian paper published in Cincinnati, made this comment: "It is said that he was proffered the pastorate of a wealthy Church in New York City but that he refused it that he might take

up the work along the lines of social service. The Labor Temple is a non-sectarian Church, richly endowed by wealthy men of New York. It is said Dr. Day will be allowed to work along the lines he may desire, and that he would not be stinted for money."

In his zeal for social justice he reminds one of the prophet Amos. A parishioner during his pastorate here remarked recently, "I shall never forget how he stormed, yes, that is the only word that expresses it, 'stormed' at Church members who had no thought for the underprivileged."

His sympathy with the laboring people with whom his work dealt led him to champion their cause vehemently and he became a well-known figure in New York.

On one occasion, during a strike of garment workers, he was arrested by overzealous police and spent a night in the lockup. The arrest was plainly unjust and Day was an embarrassing prisoner to retain. Speedy justice in court followed the next day and this incident made him all the more popular and enshrined him in the affections of his parish.

About this time his old college, Tusculum, was engaged in an effort to enlarge its endowment and facilities. Moved by the sense of an unpaid obligation, he assumed the direction and leadership of a national campaign. During this campaign, he paid a visit to Irvington and spoke at a union meeting of the local Churches in the old Methodist Church on Layman Avenue.

After leaving New York he became a resident of Richmond, Virginia, and while there accepted an invitation from his old parish in Irvington to deliver the dedicatory address of the new edifice which replaced the one built under his ministry.

From *The Irvington Presbyterian* of April 12, 1931: "It is with great sorrow that the congregation learns of the death of Reverend Jonathan C. Day, first pastor of this Church. Dr. Day suffered injuries in an automobile accident in February from which he did not recover."

CHAPTER IV

It Was Time to Build

WITH THE ZEAL of the prophet Haggai, Jonathan C. Day proclaimed "It was time to build the house of the Lord"; and work to secure a lot began in earnest.

According to instructions, the Trustees investigated several sites for a Church and many meetings were held to discuss a proper location.

February 7, 1907, the Board met at 30½ North Delaware Street at 2:00 P.M. and passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Irvington Presbyterian Church favor the purchase of the lot at the southeast corner of East Washington Street and Downey Avenue (70 by 100 feet) at the purchase price of \$1,450, plus street improvements and taxes, same not to exceed \$1,950 total."

But on March 3, 1907, a meeting was held in Odd Fellow Hall and a resolution passed to the effect that by reason of objections to that location and the inability to raise the funds necessary to consummate the option, further consideration be postponed and no further action taken.

Prices of those days are of interest. March 16, 1907, the Board agreed to pay \$100 per year for the rental of Odd Fellow Hall for Sunday School and Church services. That amount included light and heat. Also 50 folding chairs were to be purchased, the same not to exceed \$6.00 per dozen. The janitor was to be paid \$1.00 per Sunday.

March 23, 1907, a meeting was called to discuss the merits of two lots. One had been offered by Sam Potter and the other by Sylvester Johnson. The Potter lot seemed too expensive. April 30, the Board decided to call for a subscription of \$5,000 for a lot and the erection of a building, pledge cards to be presented and pledges to be paid on the Building and Loan plan. June 13, 1907, one year after the organization of the Church, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to purchase a lot upon which to erect a Church building, subject to the approval of the congregation.

Numerous tracts were investigated and because of its convenience of location and reasonableness of price the Johnson lot at the north-east intersection of Johnson and Julian Avenues was selected, the price of the same to be \$1,600; \$700 was paid in cash and a mortgage given on the lot to the amount of \$900.

As reported to the congregation: "It is a tree-shaded lot, the location is a good one and it is no exaggeration to say that as a site for a Church, it is unsurpassed for beauty by any in the city."

Dr. Jonathan C. Day was installed as regular pastor in June, 1907.

Following the custom of the ancient Israelites a "Tent of Meeting" for worship was erected on the lot where the present Church stands.

The tent meetings were well attended. Many children remained after Sunday School and we are told "they behaved beautifully in Church." Dr. Day was a man of outstanding personality and a gifted speaker. His clarion voice could be heard beyond the limits of the tent and passersby knew that Presbyterians were getting a practical gospel. We are told "the singing was good." At first there was no choir but Miss Florence Dillan, an accomplished pianist, presided at the piano and the people sang "heartily unto the Lord."

The Brotherhood

The Brotherhood of the Irvington Presbyterian Church was organized April 21, 1907, soon after Dr. Day came and continued through his pastorate; but we have no record of it since that time.

Its first officers were: president, J. L. Kingsbury; vice-president, H. E. Martens; secretary, Dr. W. F. Kelly; and treasurer, T. H. Kaylor. Its object was the winning of men to Christ and to the activities of the Christian life.

It did much to stimulate the interest of men in the Church services and to cultivate a spirit of fellowship. It stressed benevolences, and was responsible for music and other programs for the Sunday evening services.

Mrs. Day gave much attention to the girls. She organized a Bible study group of high school age, and invited them to meet at the manse on Saturday evenings. The evening began with a share-a-dish supper, followed by Bible study and a devotional period. Then came a social hour. We have been informed that the following are the living members of that group: Elizabeth Martin (Mrs. C. A. Lewis), now of Aurora, Illinois; Lucille Clark (Mrs. Fred Swartz), Wanamaker,



Meetings were held in a tent during the summers of 1907-1908

Indiana; Bess Frankenberger (Mrs. H. H. Elliott), Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Bonnie Major (Mrs. Louis M. Richardson). In a letter received recently from one of those teen-age girls of that time, Elizabeth Martin Lewis, she states, "During the social hour we discussed all the weighty problems that girls always have and there was plenty of fun mixed in when the Days were present."

A class of small girls, taught by Miss Martha Cunningham, won high praise from Dr. Day for memorizing Scripture. It was the custom to call on classes to take part in the closing exercises of the Sunday School. This class, at the suggestion of Virginia Kingsbury, one of its members, recited the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians. The class stood and recited the chapter without a halt. Other members of the class were Dorothy and Margaret Carey, Anna Towles, Esther Stewart, Margaret Davenport, Hortense Winks and Helen Black.

On social issues Dr. Day did not hesitate to denounce a thing as wrong whether or not it was considered so by civil statute. In many ways his social ideas would fit well into modern times. At that time Sunday baseball was being made an issue. Dr. Day believed that people who worked six days a week (as they did then) were entitled, provided they attended worship service in the morning, to spend the Sabbath afternoon in wholesome recreation. So Presbyterian men, who so desired, played baseball. And in the autumn, football and basketball teams were organized.



A championship basketball team

The first basketball team was made up of Tom Richardson, Jay Weesner, Beany Baker, Bud Davenport, Merrill Woods and Jimmie Boyle. That the team became of championship caliber is evident by the cup they are holding in the above picture.

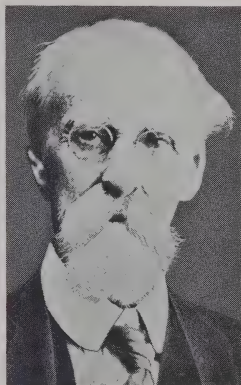
The tent meetings continued during the summers of 1907 and 1908. For the winters the congregation moved back to the hall on Washington Street.

The financial load was heavy. It was difficult to meet the payments on the lot that had been acquired. The Trustees gave Dr. Day a list of subscribers and non-subscribers and instructed him to interview the non-subscribers with a view of getting pledges, and certain subscribers to increase their subscriptions.

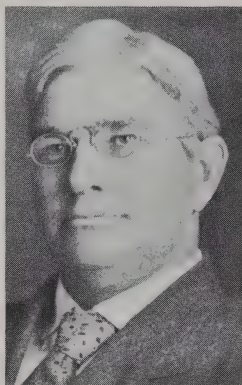
After the report of Dr. Day, September 16, 1907, the erection of a Church seemed more hopeful.

George Thormeyer, now president of the Board of Trustees, gave freely of his time and energy to the support of a Church building and was largely responsible for a building program.

At a meeting held March 16, 1908, Thomas M. Richardson offered to take charge of the erection at a compensation of 12½ percent of the cost, purchase all material and superintend all work. Mr. Richardson was an experienced builder whose special qualifications were used



BENNAJAH WEESNER
Architect



THOMAS M. RICHARDSON
Builder

to such advantage that the cost was held down to a surprisingly low figure.

At a meeting of the Board April 6, 1908, it was agreed that the building should cost not more than \$6,500 and that an effort be made to borrow \$4,500 for a term of years. Butler University offered \$4,000 for a term of five years at 6 percent interest to be secured by first mortgage on the lot and personal endorsement by each one of the Trustees.

Bennajah Weesner was engaged as architect. He had designed a number of Churches in Indianapolis and throughout the state. Mr. Weesner refused all payment for his work and when the Trustees insisted upon his accepting at least a partial fee, he turned the money back into the building fund of the Church. During the summer the weather was fine and work progressed rapidly.

Opalescent glass for the windows was secured from a Chicago firm for \$325. Pews complete—305 lineal feet—were purchased for \$473.

Wiring was installed by skilled labor at 37½ cents per hour and rubber-covered wire at \$12 per 1,000 feet.

The Session voted to open the new Church with the arrangement for a program to be left to Dr. Day.

Communion was to be observed the first Sunday in July, "preceded by an evening service each week day evening in preparation thereof." The Session was to meet each evening after the service to receive those seeking membership.



*Cornerstone Laying for the First Church Building
Dr. Day, extreme right. Thomas M. Richardson, foreground left*

The day set for dedication was December 6, 1908, but this was later changed to January 10, 1909.

The building afforded the congregation a cozy and comfortable home with ample facilities for several years.

A letter received recently from a charter member states: "How thrilled we were when the little red brick Church was built! We all thought it was beautiful! We used to enjoy gathering on the porch to exchange greetings and discuss meeting plans."

Difficulties

"He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." ISAIAH 40:29.

With added facilities for worship, Sunday School classes and Church organizations, and with the friendliness, loyalty and Christian consecration of its members and leadership, the work of the Kingdom progressed steadily.

But the financial struggles were many. In June, 1908, \$1,500 was borrowed from the Indiana National Bank, the bank requiring each of the Trustees to endorse as an individual.

By October, 1908, the financial situation seemed almost desperate;

\$500 was needed "for use of immediate demands," and all available sources seemed to have been solicited. Always the same result. None was willing to loan to the Church. But "God works in a mysterious way." The heart of a woman, a tavernkeeper on the South Side, was moved. She said, rather wistfully let us hope, "I have never done anything for the Church." Evidently she thought this was her opportunity. Anyway the money was forthcoming and the "face" of the Church was saved.

It may be added that the money was paid back with 6 percent interest at the end of a year.

In November another loan of \$2,000 was borrowed from Butler University and, as before, individual endorsement by each Board member was required.

At a Board meeting in November, Dr. Day proposed that the budget plan be adopted but the Trustees objected. They said it would deprive the Trustees of their right to collect funds and that there would be no regularity of payments. However, at a joint meeting of the Session and the Boards the budget plan was adopted.

In April the Deacons estimated \$100 per week would be needed to meet expenses for 1910-1911. According to agreement, 60 percent was to be allocated to current expenses, 20 percent to the building fund and 20 percent to benevolences. In addition each member was to be given a chance to give an amount besides that already pledged.

Spiritual as well as financial needs were constantly on the hearts of the leaders. A committee from the Session had been appointed to arrange for evangelistic meetings, to continue as long as seemed advisable. Rams Horn Brown was to be secured for one week.

The meetings began February 28, 1909. It would seem from the list of members that came into the Church at an early date that the meetings were successful.

Up to this time members had been sought from the Irvington community only, but the Tuxedo community was building up rapidly and a canvass was made there for Presbyterians and non-Church members.

At the completion of the visitations, each elder was given a hundred cards to send to prospects of that district. To increase attendance at the weekly prayer meeting the pastor divided the parish into districts and appointed an elder to supervise each district with a view to stimulating attendance at the weekday meetings.



The red brick Church building—1908-1928

The Youth were not neglected. The Session gave the pastor permission to have games in the basement “especially for the boys.” If interest was shown, they were to be properly supervised and a committee was appointed for that purpose: Herbert Griswold from the Session; Charles Orbison, Sunday School superintendent; Sam Potter from the Brotherhood; Dr. Walter Kelly from the Board of Deacons, and Jim Kingsbury from the Board of Trustees. Let us hope the youngsters were properly supervised by such an august committee.

It would seem from the record that the elders took seriously certain powers delegated to them by Presbyterian Law “. . . they have power to inquire into . . . Christian conduct of members of the Church . . . to admonish, to rebuke . . . those who are found to deserve censure.”

At one Session meeting, a general discussion was held on the state of religion in the Church. It was thought that among some families there was a great deal of talking in an unkind way about other members of the Church. To eliminate all trouble and ultimate hurt to the Church, the Session agreed to call in a body on such families and labor and pray with them for the cessation of all such talk. We are not giving the date of that Session meeting for good reasons. We want no snoopers. Names were mentioned and, as Mark Antony

said over the dead body of Caesar, "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones." There is a record of the Session going into one home and of their discussing the matter with the man and his wife. It was decided, after due deliberation, that it would be better to drop the whole matter and advise that the parties concerned become friends. By so doing, the whole matter might die out before the Church was disrupted.

Attention, Deacons! Take notice of the following: the Session "'ll git ya if ya don't watch out" (apologies to Riley). And again we are not giving the date. "The pastor was instructed to see members of the Board of Deacons and ask them to see two members [names given] about their duties as Deacons. If these two were not going to serve diligently their office they were to be asked to resign and others chosen in their place."

It is of interest to know that the Session voted \$20 toward the permanent endowment fund of the American Bible Society.

Despite difficulties the Church was prospering and it was something of a blow when Dr. Day "tendered his resignation" July 28, 1910, to take effect September 1.

The Session accepted the same "with regret."

Dr. Day preached his farewell sermon August 14, 1910.



*Mr. and Mrs. Marshall D. Lupton played an important role
in the life of the Church*



Congregation leaving the Church on Palm Sunday, 1956

REVEREND JOHN S. MARTIN
1910-1917



CHAPTER V

The Reverend John S. Martin Called

UPON DR. DAY'S DEPARTURE, the congregation called the Reverend John S. Martin of Rochelle, Illinois, and he began his pastorate the first Sunday in November, 1910.

More emphasis was now placed on special music and a quartette was organized.

The original quartette consisted of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Potter, F. B. Davenport and Miss Marie Stewart. They gave their service for ten years. Mrs. Potter presided at the old reed organ and later at a piano. Mrs. Effie McGrew was also one of the early Church pianists, an accomplished musician and a ready worker in the church musical activities. Mrs. Mae McFerren for a long time gave of her talent as a soprano soloist.

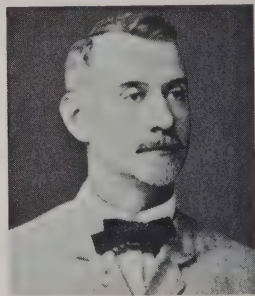
John L. Farson was active in the musical field, directed the choir for a time and organized a youth choir.

Joe Kendall for years was tenor soloist and directed the choir. He was the Sunday School cornetist and a teacher.

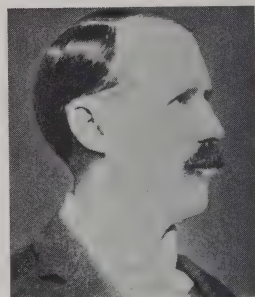
Miss Luella Martin organized a Sunday School orchestra and young people's chorus that were marked successes in the early musical activities.

All these talented people gave their services to the Church without financial remuneration.

Mrs. Ida Woods (mother of Merrill Woods) was a champion of the Sunday School and its work. She had taught a primary class from the beginning but the new Church afforded better facilities and she organized the first Primary Department. Much of the success of this department in succeeding years may be attributed to the foundation laid by Mrs. Woods. She was superintendent of the department for twenty years.



Upper left:
MISS MARIE STEWART
Upper right:
F. B. DAVENPORT
Lower left:
MRS. S. L. POTTER
Lower right:
S. L. POTTER
Center:
MISS FLORENCE DILLAN



Items from bulletins of that period are of interest:

"Pray for your clergy and do all you can to help in the work they are trying to do."

"Prayer Meeting Wednesday, 7:45. Memorize the first two chapters of Ephesians." (It is not recorded how many memorized the two chapters for study.)

"If you really care for your Church and Sunday School, speak of them to others. *'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.'*"

"Never miss a chance to advance the interests of the Church. You would do as much for any other interest you have at heart."

"The Sunday services can be greatly improved if all persons will refrain from putting on rubbers and wraps until after the benediction."

"After an unexplained absence of one year from our Church, the names will be dropped from our active roll and be placed on the reserve roll. Letters will be granted to such absentees when proper reasons are given for remissness."

At a Session meeting October 15, 1911, Mr. Martin presented a plan for a forward movement, "Men and Religion." As a part of this

plan the men of the church were to carry on a campaign of visitation.

Many additions to the Church followed and at the Congregational Meeting April 11, 1913, a membership of 338 was reported.

The Christian Endeavor was greatly stimulated by Mr. Martin's interest and inspiring talks. The members of the Session were invited to become honorary members of that organization and graciously accepted.

Under his leadership enthusiasm grew; the women of the Church through the Aid and Missionary Societies gained in interest, as did the men through the work of visitation.

Mr. Martin was a fan for wholesome sports. In 1915, Fred Ropkey wrote from his home in Oklahoma, "I hope the Reverend Mr. Martin is enjoying himself this summer with a winning ball team, for he certainly is a 'rooter.' "

After seven years of affectionate service, the Reverend Mr. Martin resigned and accepted a call to Holton, Kansas.

The Irvington Presbyterian Girl Scouts and Packs

Indianapolis Girl Scout Troops 1 and 2 were organized in Irvington in 1917 after the pattern of the English and Scottish Girl Guides. Troop 1 was registered with National Girl Scout headquarters by Mrs. Anna M. Ridge and Troop 2 was organized by Miss India Wilson (now Mrs. Virgil Lundy), who served as Director of Girl Scouting for Indianapolis. During World War I, the girls were active in war work, giving demonstrations in first aid, sewing, cooking and child care. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson presented Troop 1 with a silk flag for the selling of Liberty Bonds. The Scouts baked and sold cookies to help financially with a project to obtain a Girl Scout camp. The first camp was near Williams Creek and by 1926 Camp Dellwood was obtained. Captain India Wilson arranged with bakeries for boxes of cookies which the girls sacked and sold. Now, Girl Scout Cookies are boxed to be sold nationally.

These troops met in homes at first. Then, the Irvington Presbyterian Church was the meeting place. Troop 2 became a troop for older girls until about 1933. Troop 1 continued to meet in the Church building and in the separate gym north of the Church. In 1928, at the time of the building of the new structure, the Scouts met in a storeroom on North Ritter Ave. Heat was obtained by use of a small wood-burning stove. By March, 1929, they were housed in the new Church building.



The Sunday School contributed much to building the Church membership. Mrs. Ida Woods (at left) was a champion of the Sunday School and laid the foundation for its great growth.

Girl Scout Troop 1 continued to grow and more new troops were organized. New troops were Troop 11 in March, 1938; Troop 10 on March 15, 1943; Troop 70 on March 1, 1946; Troop 103 on September 21, 1950; Troop 464 was new in 1953.

Also, Brownie Packs were organized in our Church. Pack 10 in 1934; Pack 108 in March, 1939; Pack 126 in April, 1943, and Pack 173 on February 8, 1944.

Records show a long list of able and faithful leaders of Girl Scout Troops sponsored by the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

Troop 1 is now, 1956, a Senior Scout Troop. These high school girls are in Wing Scouts. After an extended study of aviation their gala event of the year will be an airplane trip. Leader, Mrs. C. A. Mathias.

Intermediate Troop 103 is working on the First-Class rank and the Curved Bar rank of Scouting. Additional activities included a box supper, Christmas party, contribution to CARE (surplus food), a conservation project at Camp Wildwood, tent camping at Camp Dellwood and volunteer service at the T. B. Association. Leader, Mrs. George G. Fassnacht; co-leader, Mrs. Thomas Shaner.

DR. LOUDEN A. HARRIMAN
1917-1919



CHAPTER VI

Dr. Loudon A. Harriman, Minister

DR. LOUDON A. HARRIMAN was pastor of the Church 1917-1919. These were war years and Dr. Harriman, an eloquent speaker, gave a great deal of time to making patriotic speeches.

In September, 1918, the Session granted him a two weeks' leave of absence to tour the state with the Marine Band, as a speaker for the Fourth Liberty Loan. In April, 1919, he was speaker for the Fifth Liberty Loan. Dr. Harriman was a major in the National Guard and gave time to drilling the Guard.

Many of the Church people were engaged in various kinds of war work. So, during this period, with pastor and people engaged in other necessary work, the Church moved along normally but was not known for special activities.

Monthly socials were a prominent feature during the Church year 1917-1918. That was during the rationing period and suppers seemed inadvisable, but socials were held after dinner and simple refreshments served. This kept up the good fellowship for which our Church has always been known.

Dr. Harriman had a beautiful baritone voice and those who attended services cannot forget how at the end of the sermon he would burst into a familiar gospel song appropriate to the sermon.

Miss Mary Zoercher (Mrs. Robert Carr) was pianist and never knew what he was going to sing but she enjoyed picking up the melody and accompanying him.

Miss Zoercher gave her services as pianist to the Church for four years. The choir consisted of Miss India Wilson, Miss Mary McBride, soprano; Mrs. F. F. McNelly, Mrs. G. D. Thornton, alto; S. L. Potter, Philip Zoercher, tenor; H. D. Clark, M. D. Lupton, basso.

In July, 1919, Dr. Harriman resigned to become assistant pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis.



Enlarged Church parlor, 1956

Forecourt completed in 1955



DR. GEORGE WILLIAM ALLISON
1919-1930



CHAPTER VII

Another Pilot of the Onward Way

SOMEONE HAS SAID that the proper rearing of a child begins with choosing the right grandparents.

On the paternal side, George William Allison is of good Scots ancestry. The first Allisons migrated to Virginia in 1646 and their descendants fought in the Revolution. Eventually they trekked to Gardner, Illinois, where George William was born December 28, 1887.

His maternal grandparents migrated from Isle of Man to Monmouth, Illinois, and became farmers with an ambition for education. Several became teachers.

Boyhood days were as the common lot of small town and country boys. Through grade school, high school and college, George was proficient both in scholastic attainments and athletics.

During his college days at Hanover he majored in the sciences. He had many outside interests. He was reporter for the Indianapolis News and the Indianapolis Star, and writing, especially poetry, became a hobby. His popularity with the student body is evidenced by his being made president of the Athletic Association (he was adept at both baseball and football), the Y. M. C. A., and his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta.

The summer following his graduation from college he worked as a volunteer social worker at Christopher House in Chicago several evenings a week. He spent a year at McCormick and for the summer went to Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, New Albany, as a licentiate. In the fall he transferred to Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, New York, where he was graduated with honors in 1913, receiving the Maxwell Fellowship providing for foreign study. Those were busy days at Auburn. He worked part time as assistant minister at the First Presbyterian Church (the largest Church in Auburn), served as

scoutmaster for a troop of 32 boys, preached occasionally and was correspondent for two newspapers.

Meantime Billy Sunday had been conducting an evangelistic campaign in South Bend and Dr. Allison was urged to organize a new Presbyterian Church. He assumed leadership and started with twelve dismissals from First Church and about sixty decision cards.

The one year Dr. Allison had agreed to serve in South Bend extended to five. A Church was built and, when he left South Bend, the Church was well organized, self-supporting, had a membership of 375 and a Sunday School enrollment of more than 400.

While here he married the girl to whom he had been engaged for nearly six years, Miss Edna Kunkel of Hanover.

When World War I came on he enlisted and applied for a commission as chaplain. During the delay he obtained an appointment as religious secretary of the Army Y. M. C. A. and was sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Here he conducted religious services and organized Army athletics. Overseas he was assigned to 128th Infantry, 32nd Division, with whom he served until the close of the war. He surrendered his commission at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, joined his wife and two little daughters, Eva Catherine and Clair Louise, at Hanover and then resigned as minister of the South Bend Church.

Dr. Frank Ballard had heard Dr. Allison preach in New Albany and was so favorably impressed that he recommended him to the Irvington Church, then without a pastor.

During the summer of 1919 several ministers were invited to preach in the Irvington Church, among them Dr. Allison. He was extended a call and became the regular pastor in October, 1919. He preached his first sermon as regular pastor October 1, 1919, and was installed the following December.

At the Congregational Meeting in April, 1920, the Clerk of the Session reported 385 members. By March 31, 1923, the number had reached 486.

A happy event the first year was the burning of an old mortgage for \$4,000 given to Butler University when the Church was built in 1908. At the Sunday morning worship service, April 25, 1920, the mortgage was burned with due ceremony.

Many will remember how lustily Dr. Allison sang and that he loved good music. The names of our singers of that period will recall

pleasant memories: India Wilson, Corrine Wilson, Beth Wilson, Clara (Mrs. Ed) Wilson, Marshall Lupton, Henry Gelston, T. J. Cornwell, Philip Zoercher, composed our double quartette, with Mrs. Marshall Lupton at the organ, and later Marian Stewart. Others that sang a little later included Mary McBride, Melissa Cornelius, Maud Martin Davis, George A. Newton, Thaddeus McPheeters and Edward Carpenter. Sam Potter and Joe Kendall sang over a long period.

Sam Potter was the faithful and efficient Church treasurer for many years with a prejudice in favor of the minister. "He invariably paid my [Dr. Allison's] salary two weeks in advance during all those years—the only instance of such a practice that has ever come to my attention."

Since their organization in 1907, the women of the Missionary Society had been responsible for money to carry on women's work. But at a Session meeting, May 11, 1920, it was agreed that the offerings for Women's Work become a part of the Church benevolence budget. A committee was appointed to prorate the money and thereafter the Deacons turned over to the Women's Missionary Society 23½ percent of all money contributed to benevolences. The women paid their dues through the Church envelopes. This plan continued until the merger with the Women's Association.

The King's Daughters

For some time a group of women had been having a morning meeting at the Church once a month. There was no definite program and the purpose was mainly a social get-together.

One of this group, Mrs. Fred Stilz, who had recently come from another Presbyterian Church where there was an organization of King's Daughters, told this group of the good work of this organization. As a result, the Irvington Service Circle of King's Daughters was organized on April 6, 1920, as one of the women's organizations of the Church and became an effective and serviceable part of the Church life until the Women's Association was formed.

Three of our women have been state president of the order in Indiana: Mrs. Louis M. Richardson, Mrs. Fred D. Stilz and Mrs. Layman D. Kingsbury.

Mrs. Richardson has been highly honored as International President of the King's Daughters and Sons.

Four of our young women have received scholarships to the King's Daughters and Sons summer school at Chautauqua, New York, giving them a summer's work in New York University, or in the University of Syracuse, as well as in the order's school for training in Christian Service: Miss Grace McVey, Miss Marjorie Kingsbury (Mrs. Louis Todd Bower), Miss Catherine Mosiman (Mrs. Howard Harrison) and Miss Barbara Jones.

The Mary Winks Guild

A group organized in 1917 met a long-felt need—the Young Ladies' Guild. Mrs. Orlando Winks brought together a group of young ladies to interest them in mission study.

After Mrs. Winks moved away Mrs. Carl Stone became sponsor and the name was changed to the Mary Winks Guild.

They met one evening a month for mission study and took as their special project the Mary J. Rankin School in Tennessee, to which they sent school supplies and toys at Christmastime.

Sometimes there was a dinner meeting and a social time. At such times some of the young husbands felt neglected. They called the ladies the "Winkies" and themselves the "Wee Willie Winkies." To soothe their ruffled feelings four of the "Wee Willies"—Ned Perkins, Harold Stewart, Charlie Smith and Seward Craig—had steak fries in their own homes, each taking his turn as host. In time other husbands joined the group. The original four, now with their wives and Dwight and Sue Sherburne and Eva Leaming Weber and Mr. Weber, have a memorial Christmas party annually in December.

The Sunday School

Many adults look back with nostalgia to the time when the youth and adults met together for the opening and closing exercises of the Sunday School.

They remember the singing led by Joe Kendall with his cornet and later Ralph Blair and Arthur Hoffman were choristers. And there was an orchestra organized and directed by Mrs. James Loomis. Interesting features were given on special occasions.

Faithful superintendents of those days were Marshall Lupton, John Carr, and Fred Stilz, who served seven years. But it seemed best for the youth to have their own department and the adults co-operated.

For proficiency and length of service Mrs. Ida Woods should

receive special mention. She organized the Primary Department according to age and served as general superintendent for twenty years. She had taught a primary class since the organization of the Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Newcomer claim the honor of bringing the youngest baby to the Church School. Their daughter, Betty, was brought to the Church at the age of six weeks. She “grew up” in the Bible School and taught a class for several years. And it is interesting to note that Betty’s was the first wedding reception held in the enlarged and newly decorated parlor, December 18, 1954.

One of the “boys” of the twenties remarked recently, “I don’t know how George Thornton managed on Sunday mornings in the little brick Church to keep a group of teen-age boys quiet and interested but he did. And we went every two weeks to the third floor of his home to play games. . . . Mrs. Thornton, too, was so kind to us. I can never forget those days and the big bowls of ice cream served to us.” Ned Perkins (E. A. Jr.) and Harold Stewart, both elders in the Church, were two of those boys.

Layman Kingsbury, who enjoyed the picnics of those days, later writes: “Picture, if you please, one of those picnics in action. Who would not have enjoyed watching Amos Butler balance an egg in a spoon; Marshall Lupton turning a handspring; Sam Potter sink a ringer at horseshoes; Phil Zoercher, Tom Kaylor and others playing drop the handkerchief. Those picnics were sponsored and kept alive by the young people of the Sunday School. Let’s have an old-fashioned picnic again.”

A class of the older women taught by Mrs. Charles Tarpenning was active in the twenties and early thirties. A group from this class was called “The Quilters” and spent one day a week, regardless of weather—rain, snow or summer heat—quilting.

From their earnings the first railing was installed at the steps leading to the west entrance of the present Church building and a beautiful baby grand piano was purchased for the Ladies’ Parlor.

The Irvington Presbyterian Men’s Club

In the middle twenties, the men of the Men’s Bible Class organized the Irvington Presbyterian Men’s Club.

The club was mostly social in its nature. There was a dinner meeting the second Saturday evening of each month—October through May. The dinners, with Arthur Bayless and Matt Farson as chief cooks,

were said to be marvelous. The price was fifty cents per plate, and season tickets (eight dinners) were \$3.50. A first-class speaker was promised for every meeting.

Daily Vacation Bible School

Our Church initiated Daily Vacation Bible School in Irvington. At the April meeting of the Session, 1923, it was decided to have a Daily Vacation Bible School beginning the first Monday after the close of the public schools. At the May meeting a committee, consisting of Elders Dirks and Whitham and Mrs. J. P. Thompson, was appointed and instructed to consult with the Methodist and Downey Avenue Christian Churches for the purpose of organizing a Union Daily Vacation Bible School. The organization was consummated.

The School met in the old gym north of the Church and Mrs. Thompson became its first superintendent.

The Union School continued for only a few years and then the Presbyterian Church assumed full responsibility, any child of the community being welcome.

Mrs. Thompson was succeeded by Miss Emma Kast. Miss Kast taught and was superintendent of the Junior Department for a number of years.

Miss Dorothy Harder taught Juniors and followed Miss Kast as superintendent. Her services continued more than twenty years. For two summers she was superintendent of the Daily Vacation Bible School.

A nursery for babies and small children was provided in 1926. Such incidents as the following may have led to its maintenance through the years: Kenneth Bayless, then a small boy, cried vociferously during the morning service and his mother started to take him out. Dr. Allison said, "Don't take the child away, he is not disturbing me." The answer of Mrs. Bayless was to the effect that it was the child who was being disturbed.

Youth Activities

The Christian Endeavor had meant much to the Church during the years. It received a new stimulus when Mrs. James Loomis took charge of Youth Activities in 1924. The average attendance then was about 15. It grew into a membership of about 50—due to development of various activities.

A monthly business meeting was held in the homes of the members. Once a month the group attended an evening service in the Sanctuary. A choir was organized and sang at this time.

At special seasons of the year pageants were presented. And each spring a play was produced to finance delegates' attendance at the Winona Lake Conferences. Never fewer than 10 were sent—one year 17 and another year 21. This project led to the organization which meant so much to the Church in the thirties and early forties, the Mummers.

In 1926 a smaller group within the larger was organized and called itself "The Serious Thought Class." It met once a month in the home of Mrs. Loomis and discussed problems of various kinds. One winter they studied the four major religions of the world. These discussions often grew so animated and lengthy that the young people had to be reminded when it was time to go home.

The whole group continued their Sunday worship services through the summer.

In 1926 an Intermediate (Junior-High) group was formed. Their program followed much the same pattern as the Senior group.

A girls' basketball team was organized. They belonged to the City League and played teams from other Churches, the School for the Deaf, Y. W. C. A. and Settlement House.

A group of small girls, "Light Bearers," was organized under the leadership of Mrs. C. A. Cline.

No doubt the boys felt neglected and made themselves a nuisance by breaking into the gymnasium and sometimes causing damage. Then Mrs. Loomis appeared before the Men's Bible Class which was disturbed over the breakage of some chairs. Mrs. Loomis put this question, "Which is the more important—a boy or a chair?" That set the men to thinking and a committee with Layman Kingsbury, chairman, was appointed to supervise activities for the boys. The Session took up the matter and in 1926 appointed Layman Kingsbury to direct the boys' activities. He continued work with the boys until a time after the new Church was built.

The Youth Program followed the program sent out by the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education. The Tuxis program for the older youth came out first, and other departments followed. The Irvington Church was the second Church in Indianapolis to take up this Youth Program, which later developed into Westminster Fellowship.

We all were happy and grateful when William McEwen appeared before the Session February 3, 1929, and expressed his desire to study for the ministry. After examination by the Session, his application was approved and he was recommended to be taken under care of the Presbytery.

Scoutmasters of Girl Scouts at this time were: Miss Mildred Campbell, Miss Beth Wilson and Miss Bessie Mullin. Camp Fire Girls: Mrs. Edgar Welland, Miss Mary McPheeters, Guardians. Boy Scout Scoutmasters: F. H. Osler and Harry B. Perkins.

In its last issue, December 29, 1929, *The Irvington Presbyterian*, a two-page leaflet published during Dr. Allison's pastorate, announced two junior organizations: the Pioneer Group and Junior Church.

"The Pioneers—a very energetic and active group—meet every Sunday evening. They gather with vim and share a happy hour of song and worship. All youth of the intermediate age are not only invited but urged to come and join in something that will not only help them, but which they enjoy.

"The Juniors have several weeks since resumed their 'Junior Church' which is held in the Junior Department room, at the same hour as the morning Church service conducted in the nave.

"The interest of parents is solicited in insuring the attendance upon the hour of children's worship."

Dr. Allison worked as chairman for Christian Education in Indianapolis Presbytery and usually helped in the summer Y. P. conferences at Winona and Hanover. Our young people were sent to Winona with "a subsidy based upon a pledge of active work on their part at some specific task in the Church during the year following each conference."

He promoted Union Services for Sunday evenings during the summer months in which Methodists, Christians and Episcopalians joined, alternating places and ministers.

He also initiated Good Friday services which were later converted into Union Services. He induced local merchants to release employes for services without docking wages; the observance spread in the city.

Dr. Allison joined most of the worthwhile organizations of the community, thus extending his personal acquaintances which in turn no doubt attracted some of the unchurched to the Irvington Church.

He had long been a member of the Masonic lodge. While in

Irvington he joined the next rank of one branch of Masonry, the Royal Arch Chapter. Then a number of Irvington men joined in providing the fee for his initiation into the Scottish Rite body.

A charter member of American Legion Post No. 3 and the American County Council, he served as chaplain, conducted many funerals and delivered many patriotic addresses.

He was an active member of the Irvington Dramatic Club and of the Irvington Commercial Club.

He was here during the heyday of the Ku Klux Klan and was urged to join but he says, "I refrained, having no desire to cavort around in a bed sheet."

Under Dr. Allison's leadership the Church membership and Sunday School attendance grew and became more thoroughly organized.

Amusing Recollections

Dr. Allison recalls some amusing incidents of the years he was with us.

There was the shy bridegroom, too timid to kiss the bride. Dr. Allison's heart was so moved by the bride's expectant but disappointed look that he said, "Young man, if you don't kiss the bride, I will." Whereupon the proper procedure followed and the couple went away happy.

Another bridegroom not only had failed to provide himself with the usual small fee, but asked for a loan of five dollars to tide him over until the following Saturday payday. But that Saturday never came.

On one occasion Dr. Allison took the Boy Scout Troop on an overnight camping trip. They billeted on the ground just west of Beech Grove on what is now a public park. Just as the boys were settled for the night they were disturbed by a group of men looking for a bull that had gotten loose and was supposed to be in a testy temper. Everybody turned out to hunt the bull. He was finally corralled about midnight but there was no more sleep that night.

He recalls a kite-flying contest for Irvington children. Another was an Easter egg rolling on the lawn of School 57. For winners in these contests he had solicited prizes from local merchants.

After elders' meeting there was often an informal storytelling period. Rivalry was especially keen among John Brown, Louis Dirks, Jim Kingsbury and Marshall Lupton. "These men were artists," says Dr. Allison, "and I have heard more good humorous stories from these men than from anyone else in my life."

Deacons' meetings were held in the homes in rotation and the men brought their wives. After the business there was a social period when Dr. Walter Kelly usually began the stories and others followed.

By 1927 the Church membership and the Sunday School attendance had outgrown the little brick Church and the work was handicapped to the extent that it was generally conceded "It was time to build" again.

CHAPTER VIII

"It Was Time to Build" Again

THE LITTLE RED CHURCH that had afforded the congregation ample facilities became outgrown and in 1922, to expand floor space for Bible School and recreational work, a parish house and gymnasium had been built back of the Church and facing on Johnson Avenue. But this gave only temporary relief. From 1919 to 1927 the Church membership increased from 376 to 687. So it was generally conceded that a larger building was essential. At the morning Easter service 1923, the Church was full, with 320 present.

The first definite movement for a new Church was made at a Congregational Meeting June 1, 1924. The meeting was called to consider the idea of a campaign for enlarged facilities.

Efforts followed to increase Church attendance. In December a 100 Club was organized to stimulate attendance at the evening service and in October, 1925, the Club was reorganized to increase attendance in all departments of the Church life. Meanwhile, an evangelistic campaign had been in action, stimulated by evangelistic services conducted in February of that year by the Reverend Alva V. King of Chicago.

A survey committee was appointed to study the needs. They found all departments of the Church growing with insufficient facilities for development. January 10, 1926, a Congregational Meeting was called asking authorization to enter into an agreement with the Building Finance Bureau of the National Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church to conduct a building program campaign. The authorization was granted and Dr. Walter Lippman of our National Church Board was secured to conduct financial solicitation.

The final "build-up" for the building campaign is of interest.

Sunday, April 11, 1926

10:45 A.M. Communion Service.

7:30 P.M. Evening service in charge of young people, with symposium and address by W. A. (Bill) Lippman.

Monday

7:30 P.M. Meeting of finance committee with Mr. Lippman at the Church.

Wednesday

Held open for committee meetings at the call of Mr. Lippman.

Thursday

2:30 P.M. Women's meeting at the Church for all women of the Church. Mr. Lippman will speak.

7:30 P.M. Consecration meeting at the Church. An inspiring address by Mr. Lippman on "The Greatest Thing in the Community."

Friday

7:30 P.M. Meeting of solicitors and workers at the Church.

Saturday

Special committee meetings.

Sunday, April 18

Campaign climax, continuing all day.

Morning service with address by Mr. Lippman. Worship by volunteer offerings.

Noon—Sandwich luncheon for campaign workers.

Afternoon—Visitation by soliciting teams.

Evening—Receiving reports and conclusion of campaign.

The result of that campaign was close to \$96,000. The result had exceeded expectation and commitments for a new building were made. Buildings were razed and construction begun April 9, 1928, "on what I [Dr. Allison] think the most beautiful building in Indiana. It was awarded second honors by the National Architects' Association that year."

Committees during the building program were:

Executive: Marshall D. Lupton, chairman; John E. Reed, George D. Thornton, George A. Newton, Miss Emily McAdams, Mrs. Sarah Kendall and Carl E. Stone.

Plans: George A. Newton, chairman.

Building: George D. Thornton, chairman.

Finance: Board of Trustees.

Furnishings and Special Gifts: Mrs. Fred D. Stilz.

Clearance: Miss Emily McAdams, chairman.

During the interim the congregation met in Carr's Hall on East Washington Street. The Junior Department and Girl Scouts met in a storeroom on North Ritter Avenue. We are told that on winter days

Mildred Campbell would hurry home after a day's work at Shortridge High School that she might build fires for Girl Scout meetings.

The following committee was appointed to arrange for proper ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone: L. H. Griswold, Louis Richardson, John Reed, Mrs. Marshall Lupton, Mrs. Jesse Bennett, Mrs. Julia Ertel, Mary McPheeters, Mary Brown, T. J. Cornwell, Charles E. Wagoner.

The work on the new structure progressed rapidly. It was a great day in the Church when the cornerstone was laid July 15, 1928, 4:00 P.M. (DST).

The cornerstone is an exceptionally large one, measuring 60 inches long by $15\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and $23\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. Engraved in old Roman letters three-fourths of an inch high are "The Irvington Presbyterian Church, organized 1906, built in 1908. This edifice erected in 1928."

The cost of the cornerstone was \$210, which was subscribed by members of the Church at the Sunday School hour.

Johnson Avenue and Julian Avenue, from Ritter to Audubon Road, were roped off and an expectant, thankful crowd assembled.

The meeting opened with the Invocation and the Lord's Prayer.
Responsive Scripture Reading.

The Prayer of Consecration—The Reverend M. S. Marble,
Irvington Methodist Church.

Hymn: *Faith of our Fathers*.

The Insertion of Documents within the Stone—Mr. L. H. Griswold.
The Laying of the Cornerstone.

For the Finance Committee:

JOHN E. REED: "This stone which God hath made and man has found we have, with high heart, purchased——"

THE ARCHITECT, MR. MERRITT HARRISON: "And we have carefully designed and wrought——"

For the Building Committee:

MR. GEORGE THORNTON: "And we have faithfully procured——"

BUILDER, E. H. CARSON: "We do lay thus—secure and plumb and true——"

IN UNISON: "For Jesus Christ the Lord."

THE DECLARATION—THE MINISTER :

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we lay this cornerstone of a house to be erected here, under the name of Irvington Presbyterian Church, devoted to the worship of Almighty God and the welfare of His children. "Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth in Him shall not be confounded." "Other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid; which is Jesus Christ."

An Anthem: *The Men's Chorus.*

ADDRESS: The Reverend John W. Nicely, D.D., Moderator of the Synod of Indiana.

THE BENEDICTION: The Reverend Francis B. McCabe.

The new structure was of Bedford stone. We were indeed fortunate in having Mr. George Thornton chairman of the Building Committee, for Mr. Thornton knew stone. He was on the grounds practically every day during the building. On one occasion, at least, an inferior grade of stone was delivered and Mr. Thornton ordered it sent back. He saw to it that only high-grade stone was accepted.

Gothic in design, complete with sanctuary, gymnasium, parlor, accommodations for the Bible School, and a well-equipped kitchen and dining room, it seemed it would be equal to meet the needs of the congregation for many years.

At the close of the building program a dinner was given in honor of the various committees and each chairman gave a report of his labors, successes, trials and tribulations.

The Clearance Committee reported that it had no report. It had been the business of this committee to hear complaints and adjust differences. Such was the harmony that prevailed that there had been no complaints brought to the committee. Differences of opinion? Yes, but, by common agreement, the differences were discussed in committees where they belonged and the majority vote was final. So far as the committee knew, no one was "miffed" to the extent that trouble was aroused. This was a great tribute to the spirit of loyalty, friendliness and Christian consecration that prevailed in both committees and congregation and to the fine leadership of Dr. Allison.

The following excerpt from a local paper tells how the community felt about the new church:

“Here in Irvington the new Presbyterian Church is completed and is a thing of beauty. Dr. Allison calls it their ‘dream Church.’ They were not having a nightmare when they dreamt of that beautiful Church.

“All Irvington congratulates that congregation. In fact, local residents are so proud of that building that they call it ‘our Presbyterian Church’ and we defy our official board to stop us.”

The Bell

There was controversy over the bell. Should the bell from the little brick Church be hung in the new building?

A member of the Board of Deacons opposed it, vehemently. He said it was a relic of superstition, that when instituted it had been used “to frighten devils away” and he could not be convinced it could have any good use and have a place in a Christian Church. And so the bell was relegated to the junk pile.

Church Officers

Dr. Allison recalls the men who composed the Session and the Boards in those early days as “fine examples of Christian character as well as men of ability”: Herbert Griswold, a retired lumber broker; Amos W. Butler, secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections; John A. Brown, an employe of the same board; Louis H. Dirks, vice-principal of Shortridge High School; James Kingsbury, member of the State Legislature and editor of a farm paper; Dr. Henry Gelston, a professor of classics in Butler University; Philip Zoercher, member of the State Tax Commission and a recognized authority on tax equalization; Marshall D. Lupton, general manager of the Beveridge Paper Company.

“This was the kind of men of ability, competence, Christian character and devotion that gave character, color and drive to the Church; who had much to do with the successful program of the congregation.”

And the Board of Deacons were of like order: John Carr, vice-president of Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company; Ed Campbell of the Campbell Advertising Company; Louis Richardson, an insurance inspector; James Loomis, U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company; George Thornton, owner of the Puritan Bed-Springs Company; Samuel Potter, undertaker; Dr. Walter Kelly, a general

practitioner; and Thomas Kaylor, officer in Indiana National Bank.

And so on. Others (the term of service was briefer) were of no less distinction in service of the Church.

Symbolism

The general architectural plan of the Church is ecclesiastical and as in the Gothic Church we have the Narthex, the Nave and the Chancel.

Much symbolism has been used and contributes to a worshipful atmosphere.

The Chancel is suggestive of the head of the cross. The Sarcophagus (Communion table) denotes martyrdom and the letters "Alpha" and "Omega" being the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet denote that Christ is the beginning and the end.

The ruby light, the everlasting light, means immortality. It also expresses the eternal watchfulness of God. And the motifs on the organ grills above the choir stalls are highly emblematic symbols.

The tree symbolizes life; the vine, our Lord; the pomegranate, Resurrection. The anchor is the symbol of hope; the fish symbolic of Christ; the dove bearing the olive branch, of peace.

The Baptismal Font, octagonal in shape, denotes perfection; and the three steps whereon it rests are symbolic of the Trinity.

The windows are emblematic of the Scriptures as they admit light and express aspiration as their mottled hues of colored glass rise from the warm browns at the base to the ethereal azure blues above.

"The open timber ceilings of the Gothic parish Churches with their high vaulted arches were used to indicate aspiration and prayer. This form is that of clasped hands lifted high above the head. It is also reminiscent of arched and interlaced branches of the forest trees which were God's first temples. The form of the Gothic arch is also carried out in doors, windows and much of the carved tracery. It is the most distinctively religious design conceived by man. It lifts the mind to 'things above.'"

This environment of symbolism should cause a feeling of reverence as one enters the Church.

Extending across the balcony is a beautiful carving of a vine that we see as we leave the Church, a reminder of the parable of the vine and the branches. Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches."

The cross on the altar has a story to tell. The first cross was plain in design and overlaid with gold.

When Mr. William Johnston, a Scot and an Elder, entered the Church, he remarked, "What are you doing with that cross? That isn't a Presbyterian Cross."

Thus far "ignorance had been bliss" and we had been satisfied but we didn't have to do anything with it; it was valuable for the gold plate and it "disappeared."

Elder Johnston insisted we have a Presbyterian cross to replace it and proceeded to make a pattern. Elder George A. Newton took the pattern to a good friend, Carl W. Piel, of the P. and B. Foundry. Mr. Piel suggested that the cross be cast in copper that had been through a hardening process. This gives the copper a gold shade which keeps well when covered with shellac. The cross weighs 14 pounds and the casting cost 50 cents per pound, or \$7.00. Mr. Johnston did the polishing and made the small oak box on which it rests. It was his gift.

The Organ

Originally, there was no organ in the little brick Church—only a piano—and there were differences of opinion about purchasing one. A small debt remained on the Church and some felt it should be liquidated first.

After discussion in a Deacons' meeting, Mr. Samuel Potter announced that he was going to raise money to buy an organ. Mr. George Thornton announced he was going to solicit funds to pay the debt. There was friendly rivalry and at the next Deacons' meeting it was announced that both had been successful.

The organ was installed and proved to be a "phony" instrument. Those who attended the concert given by an organist sent by the company cannot forget their embarrassment as the organist, befuddled by liquor, struck wrong notes and messed up the program in general. On the quiet, the members of the audience were told that their tickets would be good for another concert. The organ was dedicated with proper ceremonies, Sunday morning, July 18, 1920. Mr. Arthur Potter, at the console, gave a beautiful program of music and Mrs. Arthur Potter sang, "The Lord Is My Light."

Within a short time the organ became a "thorn in the flesh" to all concerned, especially to Dr. Allison who tried to keep it in repair. It is reported his fingers were badly damaged replacing and bending copper wires, and also his clothing suffered as he crawled inside to make repairs that could not be reached from without. The organ was

finally sold to another Church. We hope this was not an un-Christian act for it was completely rebuilt and on the whole it had added—when in repair—to our worship service when played by local talent.

Profiting by this experience, the organ committee proceeded cautiously in selecting an organ for the present sanctuary. Numerous organs that had been tested and tried for a period of time were examined. Bids were opened by reputable firms and the bid of the Moller Company, Hagerstown, Maryland, accepted. "This company has built and installed more organs in noted places than any other company and their instruments are noted for their pleasing Church tones and simplicity of operation. The organ was built especially to meet the requirements of our Church and is one of the most complete instruments of its kind."

March 15, 1929, this noble instrument was dedicated to Almighty God.

A beautiful concert was given that evening by Mr. Ralph Morse Gerber of Chicago, one of the leading organists of the central west and well known in national musical circles. He was assisted by Mme. Florence Evans, mezzo contralto of Cincinnati, who had done extensive work in both opera, oratorio concerts and recitals.

Organists who have served the Church through the years are Miss Marian Stewart, Mrs. M. D. Lupton, Mrs. James R. Loomis, Miss Charlotte Moore, Mrs. Harry A. Ware and Mr. Clarence F. Elbert. Mrs. Marshall Lupton played the Wicks organ in the brick Church and the piano in Carr's Hall without remuneration.

The Dedication, March 17, 1929

A full week's program preceded the formal dedication. The congregation worshiped for the first time in the new Church March 10, 1929. Great throngs explored the Church from gymnasium to the beautiful sanctuary, both before and after the services. The morning was devoted to the ceremony of acceptance of the new Church.

Presentation of the building: George D. Thornton, for the Building Committee; Merritt Harrison, architect; E. A. Carson, builder; John E. Reed, for the Board of Trustees; Philip Zoercher, for the Session and congregation.

Prayer by the Minister: "Do Thou, O Lord, who delightest Thyself in the praises of the sanctuary, accept the offering of this house which Thy people have builded to the glory of Thy name. We offer it to

Thee to be henceforth the Home of God, a Sanctuary for the souls of men.” (abbreviated)

The evening hour was given to the choir which featured a double quartette with special violin number by Mrs. Alma Miller Lentz and vocal numbers by Miss Bowlby, Mr. Kendall and Mr. Geis.

Mrs. James Loomis played three special numbers on the new organ, a double mixed quartette presented Dudley Buck’s “Festival Te Deum” and Mr. Joe Kendall sang “Open the Gates of the Temple” by Knapp.

Monday evening was Community Night, with messages of greeting by the Reverend Ernest N. Evans, representing the Indianapolis Federation of Churches. Pastors and members of neighboring congregations were present. Those who spoke briefly included Mrs. James Butler, president of the Federated Women’s Clubs of Irvington; Firman C. Sims of the Irvington Commercial and Welfare Association, Father Lyons of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Reverend Joseph B. Rosemurgy of the Irvington Methodist Church and the Reverend Bert R. Johnson of the Downey Avenue Christian Church. Dr. Albert R. Miles, formerly a Presbyterian minister in Bogota, Colombia, pronounced the benediction.

Tuesday was Presbyterian Night. Dr. Jean S. Milner of the Second Presbyterian Church delivered an address on “Personal Evangelism.” Other Presbyterian ministers sharing in the program were: Dr. J. Ambrose Dunkel of Tabernacle Church, the Reverend Thomas R. White of Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church and Dr. Edward Haines Kistler of Memorial Church. Others who spoke briefly were Elder C. A. McKamey, the Moderator of the Indianapolis Presbytery; Mr. David R. Witham, president of the Indianapolis Presbyterian Union; Dr. Henry H. Hostetter, executive secretary of the Synod of Indiana, and Dr. M. M. LeConte of New Castle, Indiana, Moderator of the Synod of Indiana. Dr. Ernest Hesser, director of music of the Indianapolis Public Schools, sang. Other special numbers were given by the Men’s Chorus with the Irvington Masonic Double Quartette.

The ladies of the Church received informally Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 until 4 o’clock in the Church parlor for women of the community and of the Presbyterian Churches of Indianapolis.

Wednesday night was educational night and addresses were given by Dean Louis H. Dirks of DePauw University and Dean Norman Richardson of the Presbyterian Graduate School of Chicago.

Thursday evening was given over to a Fellowship Dinner and a Young People's program.

After a dinner at 6:30 there was a brief service of song and talks given around the table.

Theme: Problems, Pleasures and Prospects.

Toasts were given by George A. Newton, Emily McAdams, John E. Reed, Fred D. Stilz and George D. Thornton.

At eight, after a program of song, an address, "Christ and Young People," was given by the Reverend Harold T. Wilson, Minister of Wallace Street Presbyterian Church.

Friday night was devoted to the organ recital by Dr. Ralph Morse Gerber of Chicago, assisted by Mme. Florence Evans, soloist, of Cincinnati.

Sunday morning came the dedication of the Church with the dedicatory address by Jonathan C. Day, former pastor.

The building was presented by Philip Zoercher, representing the Session, and dedicated by the minister and congregation, concluding with a Prayer of Consecration.

Having finished this great project Dr. Allison resigned in December of dedication year, 1929. He had received a call from the First Presbyterian Church of Topeka, Kansas, and wanted to accept.

His resignation was accepted "with regret."

On leaving for Topeka February, 1930, he expressed these words: "Leaving Irvington was a sorrowful, emotional experience, parting from people to whom I had become deeply attached, people who had lavished affection upon me beyond the measure deserved."

The Church was without a pastor until April, 1930.

The Session appointed a pulpit committee January 16, 1930, to recommend preachers for the morning services; evening services were discontinued.

At the meeting February 2, 1930, the Reverend F. E. Henry was appointed interim minister.

CHAPTER IX

A Committee Goes A-Preaching

"WHO IS THIS John B. Ferguson who has written so many letters recommending preachers for this church?" "Haven't the slightest idea. He hails from Hopewell. Where is that?" "Near Franklin, I think. I propose we investigate him."

This conversation took place at a committee meeting in the Irvington Church in April, 1930.

Thaddeus McPheeters, George Thornton, Layman Kingsbury, Florence Lupton (Mrs. Albert D. Smith) and Emily McAdams had been appointed by the Session to "spy out the land" and find a successor to George William Allison, resigned. This was not an easy task. Dr. Allison had been popular, we had a beautiful new Church, the field was "already white for harvest" and just the right man was needed.

The difficult chore of finding the man for the place had brought the committee almost to a state of "brainwash." By twos and threes they had visited Churches from the banks of the Ohio to the dunes of Lake Michigan and had invaded parishes of Illinois and Ohio. They had eaten Sunday dinners at Johnny-cake joints and Hoosier Statlers, wherever the committee happened to be.

One jaunt deserves special mention. The great blizzard in late March, 1930, was a memorable one. The temperature dropped to around zero and gales piled the snow in drifts that made traveling hazardous. But the two ladies of the committee had made up their minds to go "snooping" on that particular Sabbath and go they did.

An elder had reported that someone had said that someone had told him that a promising young preacher was serving a congregation in a small town in Illinois near Chicago. Time was precious. Other prospectors might be out and Irvington wanted to be in the front line.

The ladies started soon after daybreak and were on time for the beginning of the service.

Eyes centered on a tall, slender ministerial looking man. Hopes rose high. The music began and a strong voice rang out that had a familiar

sound. Florence whispered, "He sounds like George William." But there the likeness ended.

This was only one of various experiences searching for a Mr. Big to shepherd the Irvington Presbyterians. They had found many earnest men of God, doing a splendid work in their chosen fields. But a "something" seemed to be lacking. Or was it? Could it be that these good men were predestined to remain where they were and the "eyes" of the committee "were holden"?

And so the committee took a chance and turned to Hopewell.

The first trip was vaguely funny. Yes, the routine accident occurred—a flat tire. But undaunted by the seemingly bad omen, after repairs were made, they drove on to Franklin for dinner and then to the Manse to call on the minister and his family.

The family "passed muster" and it was decided to attend preaching the following Sunday. That Sunday happened to be the "every member canvass" and the sermon was only fifteen minutes. The text was taken from Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost: "For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are afar off."

So gripping was the message that the homeward trip was rather quiet. But it was agreed that the entire committee should return the following Sunday.

By that time the congregation of Hopewell had become suspicious and one member remarked to a member of the committee, "If I had known you were going to be here today, I would have brought my shotgun." There were no casualties.

The unanimous opinion of the committee was that they had found the man.

Mr. McPheeters made the report to the congregation, the call was extended to Dr. Ferguson and accepted.

The grand finale of the quest had been reached and the committee was dismissed.

DR. JOHN B. FERGUSON
1930-1949



CHAPTER X

*"There was a man sent
from God whose name
was John"*

"All good men are sent from God"
(FROM A SERMON BY DR. STONE)

DR. JOHN B. FERGUSON has a rich background for a Presbyterian minister. His grandfather was a Scotsman. His father, James S. Ferguson, was a doctor and was graduated from Miami University and Ohio Medical School. His mother, Sarah Rebecca Bohn before her marriage, was a Church organist for many years.

John Bohn Ferguson was born at Camden, Ohio. He went to school there but did not graduate. Instead he went for the last year to Miami University preparatory school. He would have graduated at Miami in 1900 but was out of school for three years and on crutches because of illness. He was graduated from Miami with both A.B. and M.A. in 1902. He taught English in the Middletown (Ohio) High School three years and then went to Princeton Theological Seminary for two years, getting an M.A. in literature from Princeton University.

He married Margaret Lawrence Williams in 1907.

Mrs. Ferguson has an interesting missionary background. Her grandparents went to Minnesota in 1837 as missionaries to the Sioux Indians and worked among them for forty years. Her father and mother were among the first missionaries to interior China. They went to Kalgan in 1866. Mrs. Ferguson was born at Kalgan.

John Ferguson was graduated from McCormick Seminary, B.D., in 1908. He served three Churches before coming to Irvington—Howe, Indiana, 1908-1912; Hopewell, 1913-1922; Union Church, Manila, Philippines, 1922-1924; Hopewell, 1926-1930. His pastorate in Manila was shortened by illness. He went to China and was in bed for a year. He then came to a sanatorium in the Adirondacks for six months. While at Hopewell during the first World War, he was in War Service with the Y. M. C. A. six months at Camp Taylor and a year in France.

He was called from Hopewell to Irvington in April, 1930, and was installed as minister June 26, 1930.

Dr. Ferguson Minister, 1930-1949

Dr. Ferguson's first sermon was preached the first Sunday after Easter, 1930, and he was called the following week by the congregation. The family, Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson and five children, moved to Irvington in September. From him we quote, "Never did a minister come to a church under more favorable conditions. There was a most beautiful new edifice—I was coming into an inheritance on which others had labored. Dr. Allison had held services in a hall for almost a year; the planning must have weighed upon his mind and heart as well as upon the various committees. Now it was all done and given over to me to carry out the beautiful dreams of those who had dreamed some nights instead of sleeping. There was a congregation wonderfully united, having escaped the bitter differences that often occur under the stress of building. There were no cliques, no pronounced theological differences; there was a wonderful determination to live up to the opportunities that the Lord was graciously putting before them. I never ceased to wonder at the temerity they had shown in calling a country preacher fifty-one years old. Even then youth carried a great premium in the pastorate. . . .

"Those who attended the installation service on a very hot July evening will not forget Dr. Frank Hood's charge to the congregation. He came down from the pulpit and walked up and down the aisle in his eagerness to lay upon their hearts the proper attitude toward their new preacher about whom he spoke words of too glowing eulogy. Dr. Alexander Sharp, who had a part in the service, never allowed me to forget what I had to live up to. The people must have heeded Dr. Hood's fervent admonitions, for never has a pastor and his family been treated with greater kindness and consideration. Such was the congregation to which I came."

Those were gracious words of Dr. Ferguson but there was another side to the picture. There was no manse. He had left a beautiful one at Hopewell. He took a cut of \$1,400 less than the former pastor and that could be paid only two years when there was a further cut. We were in the midst of a depression. There was a debt of \$121,000 on the Church, \$40,000 of which was in notes signed by thirty-two Church officers, and \$10,000 due the contractor.

We had planned to build a \$100,000 Church and it had cost \$129,927 which with the organ and other essential equipment brought the total to \$142,885.

In this extravagant decade, it may be well for us to look for a moment at the penurious way in which little economies were practiced.

There was only one Church telephone then and it was not for unlimited service but for thirty free calls a month. Above that each call meant 5 cents, so the staff took necessary calls home to make at "off" hours; for our good treasurer, Sam Potter, always called attention to overuse. The use of lights, postage and stamps—all sorts of little economies were practiced in every department.

But receipts ran low and despite such care reports showed a deficit. One good faithful elder suggested that money be taken from the benevolence fund to help defray current expenses. He remarked that if we did not look after ourselves we would die. To this remark, Elder Lupton, our benevolence treasurer, had this answer: "We ought to die if we forget the commission of our Lord," and no money was ever taken from the benevolence fund for current expenses.

But we weathered the storm, all the time keeping up payments on our debt! We name a few of our men who were outstanding in that struggle: George Thornton and T. J. Cornwell, for their leadership, liberality and business acumen; Philip Zoercher who set an example by giving a tenth of his income to the building fund alone; and Russell Newgent, an attorney on the Board of Trustees, who proposed a plan that the Railroadmen's Building and Loan refinance the debt, including the personal notes. In the face of ridicule by some bankers, "they would never loan a dollar to a Church," the plan went through and the tension of many was relieved. No doubt there were many others who must be counted among the unknown heroes of faith during those trying times. Two men, not of our congregation, must be remembered with gratitude: the contractor, E. A. Carson, contributed half of his fee, thus giving \$5,000 to the Church; and William H. Martin, president of the Indiana Limestone Company, and an elder in the Bedford Church, took no profits on the stone, thus contributing \$8,000.

Church Growth

Despite the financial situation which makes some people hesitate, Church membership grew. Dr. Ferguson suggested and the Session

agreed that the Church membership list be revised—that those who neither came to Church nor contributed in any way be placed on the suspended list. However, no name was to be taken from the active list without consulting, if possible, the member in question. There were many such names on the Church roll, mostly of people who had moved away and could not be persuaded to change their membership or keep it active in the home Church. This made the net gain in membership seem slow although there were the usual number of additions to the Church. At the close of the 19 years the membership stood at 1,624 although 1,888 persons had been received. The membership roll in 1930 had listed close to 700. Beginning in 1940 members were received the first Sunday in each month as well as at the regular communion services.

In passing, it might be mentioned that the General Assembly of 1936 set apart the first Sunday in October as a time for a communion service to be shared with all Presbyterian Churches at home and with the newer Churches abroad. This met with such general approval that the Federal Council of Churches took it up the next year and now Protestant Churches all over the world observe "World-Wide Communion Sunday."

Because of the great need for help overseas and in the army during World War II there was joined to this World-Wide Communion Sunday, the Emergency Fund in 1941, later becoming the Restoration Fund in the Presbyterian Church. The General Assembly in 1945 asked of Presbyterian Churches \$27,000,000 because of the destruction of war and the great need for new Churches. Our Church was allocated \$10,000 which was paid within two years in addition to carrying on the growing work here. Ten years before, our budget for local expenses had been \$8,895.00.

Emphasis was laid on Christian nurture. Before the fall communion and Easter the pastor conducted a class for youth for a period of seven or eight weeks, using a catechism prepared by the Board of Christian Education.

Personal evangelism had always been preached from the pulpit and practiced by the minister but early in the thirties there was a city-wide campaign of trained personal evangelism under the direction of the Reverend Guy Black. A similar campaign was directed by Guy Black Jr. in 1940. Our Church participated in these campaigns, going out two by two, visiting prospective Church members and reporting results.

Such personal evangelistic work led the way to the New Life Movement, inaugurated at the General Assembly in 1947. "It was on this all too small a foundation that Dr. Stone and the Reverend Emerson Houser were to build such a magnificent edifice of both personal evangelism and tithing which have made our Irvington Church known throughout both the state and nation and placed it as the third largest Church in the Synod of Indiana."—J.B.F.

The Bell

In 1930 there was no bell in the Church tower. Dr. Ferguson loved a bell and not knowing the objections there had been to hanging the bell in the new Church, set about to find it. It was found in one corner of Fred Stilz' coal yard. But now it would be expensive to restore the bell to its proper place. However, Dr. Ferguson had a plan to raise the money by private subscription. When he dropped in to explain the plan to Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Ferguson says, "I can hear him now saying almost savagely, 'A subscription list, did you say? I gave the bell in the first place and I will pay for putting it back where it belongs.'"

On New Year's Eve 1930, Percival Owen of the First Baptist Church at the organ and singers from his choir gave a beautiful program of music and at midnight the bell rang out the old year—now we listen for it every New Year's Eve.

Ring out the old, ring in the new . . .

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

How meaningful its pealing has become, directing our thoughts to the things of the spirit. And who can forget its joyous ringing when the message came that an armistice ending World War I was signed?

Women Officers

It had been the custom for many years for the nominating committee to present two names for each office and the one of the two receiving the greatest number of votes was declared elected. Of course there was always "Are there any nominations from the floor?" Usually there were none, but one time there was and that led to the election of the first woman elder. After the report of the nominating committee the moderator said, "Are there any nominations from the floor?" Now the General Assembly of 1930 had declared as favoring women elders. At this Congregational Meeting of 1933 Mrs. George

Newton arose and said she wished to make a nomination. Eyebrows rose. She reminded the congregation of the valuable work women were doing for the Church and still were not recognized on the Session or any Boards. She placed in nomination the name of Miss Emily McAdams. So convincing was Mrs. Newton's speech that when the ballots were counted Miss McAdams' name topped the list. And at the end of her three-year term, her name was on every ballot cast. In 1946, Elder O. S. Flick, as directed by the Session, proposed that one woman be elected to each class of elders and nominated Mrs. Marshall Lupton, Miss Sara Ewing and Mrs. Marian Gallup. They were elected and since that time a woman elder has been elected at every annual Congregational Meeting.

The Irvington Church was the first Church in Indianapolis to elect women elders. Since that time the following have been elected to that office: Miss Catherine Wegener, Mrs. Joe Byrne, Miss Mary Anne McCoy, Mrs. Sam Campbell, Mrs. Harold J. Stewart and Mrs. William C. Gordon.

The elders had long been responsible for the communion service—caring for the silver, the linen, the unleavened bread, etc. Increasingly there was seen the need for a Board of Deaconesses, not only for the preparation for communion but for taking flowers to the sick, preparing food where there was need and many other duties performed by women. At the Congregational Meeting in 1946 the first Board of Deaconesses was elected: Mrs. Frank Newcomer, Mrs. Louis W. Bruck, Mrs. Harold D. Bishop, Mrs. Maurice D. Fields, Mrs. Herschel S. Miller and Mrs. John H. Moffat. The Deaconesses have become so valuable to the Church in so many ways that we wonder how we ever got along without them.

Clerks of Session through the years deserve honorable mention: Charles Orbison, L. H. Griswold, Philip Zoercher, George A. Newton, Seward Craig, Harold Stewart, Emily McAdams and John M. Smith.

One elder is always chosen benevolence treasurer. Five men who have served in this capacity can never be forgotten for their great interest in our Church outreach: James L. Kingsbury, Marshall D. Lupton, Thaddeus McPheeters, Robert Aldag and John M. Smith.

Rotation of Officers

At the annual Congregational Meeting in April, 1931, a special committee appointed by the Session and Boards, consisting of Elder

T. H. McPheeters, Deacon W. W. Southard and Trustee T. J. Cornwell, to consider the Compulsory Rotary System of the Church officers, reported a recommendation that the Church adopt such a system for the Session and Boards, making an officer ineligible to election to the same office after serving two terms until one year had intervened. After free discussion the resolution was adopted.

The Executive Council

In 1941, William Arbuckle, a Deacon, and Russell Newgent, a Trustee, proposed that the Church have a sort of financial clearing committee. To meet the need, the Executive Council was organized, composed of two elders, two Deacons, two Trustees, the Church treasurer, the director of the budget and the pastor, *ex officio*. The term of office of the members was staggered so there would never be a completely new committee. The Council handled no money but it unified the financial affairs of the Church, and was useful in promoting other works in which the Session and Boards were interested. It meets once a month and current needs are co-ordinated with the treasurer's report.

These actions are taken back to the Session and the Boards represented. In making a budget the needs of each are sent to the Council and there incorporated in the total. This same system has continued to the present time.

Edgar A. Perkins Jr. was budget director for seventeen years, being instrumental in bringing a unified budget conducted on a calendar fiscal year. He was succeeded by B. Gaylord Evans and later by Richard Lawrence.

Our faithful treasurers should have special mention: Samuel Potter served until his death in 1932. He was succeeded by Walter Huston who served until his death in 1946. Then came Charles Gauding 1947-1948. James Fee took over for seven years, followed by Don Hopping, our present treasurer.

Secretaries

In addition to his other duties the minister found the preparation of the bulletin took too much time and he asked for a secretary. Miss Fay of Seattle, who was visiting in Irvington, came for one day a week.

The minister remembers a remark made by a good woman who felt keenly the loss of her former pastor: "I hear you have a secretary. Dr. Allison did it all by himself with the help of his wife," which was true.

Dr. Ferguson remarks, "Divine grace was given me. I said nothing."

In passing, we mention the cover of the bulletin. At first, only the cover of the bulletin was printed and, to economize, the inside was mimeographed. One day Albert Whitcomb, a real camera man, took a picture of the front entrance to the church. Merritt Harrison, the architect, saw it and remarked how effective it would be if the door were open and made a drawing showing the cross on the altar. Herbert Coval made an engraving of it and Raymond Vick printed enough covers for two months—all a labor of love.

Miss Florence Lupton came in 1931, for all the mornings of the week. Mrs. Guinevere Ostrander came in 1933 and she was followed by Mrs. Nelson Elliott in 1934. Then came Miss Bessie Fee in 1936 "who has become so efficient and necessary to the pastor and the people it often seems the Church centers about her."

These secretaries of the early days deserve the gratitude of the entire congregation. With a growing Church the office work became too heavy for one secretary and Mrs. Lymond Osting came to help when needed. In 1944 Mrs. Alexander Knox was appointed assistant secretary and served until failing health caused her to resign in May, 1946. Mrs. Osting served during the interim until Mrs. Lewis Ewing was appointed assistant secretary early in 1948. She gave efficient service until her resignation in the fall of 1951.

Church Music

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord." PSALM 95:1

For more than a year in the new Church special music was provided by a paid quartette. But on December 4, 1931, this appeared in the Session minutes: "The music committee recommends that the paid quartette be not employed after the first of the year on account of finances of the Church and that only a leader be retained." The organist, Mrs. Loomis, was more than willing to organize and direct a choir although it added to her duties. From 1924 when she became director of young people, until she resigned as organist and choir director in 1941, does any name appear so often in church activities as does that of Mrs. Loomis. Dr. Ferguson comments: "When the story of the music of the Church is told and that other important record of the dramatic group called 'The Mummers' it will be found her name leads all the rest, to say nothing of the two years she was president of the Women's Association."

At first one or two soloists were kept and so it has been all through the years. Mrs. Loomis also organized a Glee Club of teen-agers that sang occasionally. And Mr. James Fee trained a group of smaller boys and girls.

The Choir became the real center of Church music—an organization of volunteer singers. Among the soloists Mrs. Paul Dorsey, who sang for many years, will be remembered.

Each year the choir arranged for two or three special services. On Palm Sunday the oratorio "From Olivet to Calvary" was often presented. The choir sponsored organ recitals: Charles Hansen, the blind organist from the Second Presbyterian Church, came several times; Dr. Edward Meade from Miami University; Miss Ruth Graham from Hanover; Mr. Edward Hart, a talented nephew of Mrs. M. D. Lupton; Percival Owen of the First Baptist Church. Choirs were also brought: The Tech Choir, under Mr. Russell Paxton; the Girls' Choir from Tech under Miss Quigg; and the Men's Chorus from the Perfect Circle of Hagerstown, where Howard Dirks was personnel director. These came graciously more than once and there were others.

The Presbyterian Hymnal was introduced. The congregation responded to the opportunity of presenting hymnals bearing the name of some loved one. A very beautiful bookplate was designed by Louis Richardson bearing the names of both the loved one and the donor.

In an appropriate service on Mother's Day, June 10, 1931, the Hymnal was dedicated. The same nameplate was used in 1941, October 19, when the new Hymnal of 1933 was dedicated. Dr. Ferguson had served on the committee for Hymnal revision. At this, a union evening service, all the Irvington choirs with their leaders, Mrs. Paul Mazingo of the Methodist Church and Mrs. Belden Leonard of the Downey Avenue Christian Church, assisted. Mrs. Albert Parker of Hanover led the singing and with her came Miss Ruth Graham. Miss Charlotte Moore, who had succeeded Mrs. Loomis as organist, was in general charge of the music.

Sunday evening, May 2, 1937, our first community choir festival was held in the Methodist Church, the largest auditorium in Irvington, and it was filled. Each choir sang an anthem and then all the choirs joined in two or three numbers. This custom was continued until there was a great choir night sponsored by the Organists' Guild and the Church Federation of the city, held in Cadle Tabernacle with a choir of 400 voices.

Mrs. Harry A. Ware with her husband and two sons came into the Church in 1940. She was greatly interested in music and gave of her time and talent to the Sunday School and Daily Vacation Bible School. On the resignation of Miss Charlotte Moore in 1945, the Session, on the recommendation of the Music Committee, appointed Mrs. Ware Church organist. And she became Church organist in the fullest sense. We remember with gratitude how graciously she gave her time at all Church services and to any group that needed her.

Mr. Richard S. Orton of the Musical Faculty of Technical High School became choir director. Mr. Orton was graduated from Wooster College, in Ohio, and while there was concertmaster of the Wooster Symphony. Later he spent a summer studying at Fontainebleau, France. He attended the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati and received his A.M. from the Jordan School of Music, Indianapolis. Two summers he attended Choir School at Northwestern University.

He immediately organized the Westminster Choir and when the double morning service was inaugurated in 1948 he had a choir to furnish music for the first service and they have carried on ever since.

Both choirs were well organized with their own officers and committees, their choir parties and picnics.

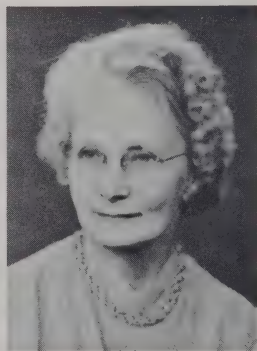
A men's chorus furnished music during a summer vacation and special soloists have been brought in from time to time.

The Mummers

The Irvington Mummers had a modest beginning but it was destined to serve the Church and community for twenty years.

In 1926 money was needed to send delegates to a Young Peoples' Conference at Winona Lake. To meet this need Mrs. James Loomis, their leader at that time, directed a group from that organization in giving a one-act play, "Hunkers Corners," in the old gym. Out of this group, two years later, the Irvington Mummers came into being.

The young people composing that group were Park Newton, Mary Brown, "Boy" Campbell, J. T. Isaacs, Georgia Brass, Eleanor Hadd, Jimmie Zoercher, Russ Hutchinson, Nancy Jane Hall, Howard Dirks,



MRS. JAMES R. LOOMIS

Marjorie Gable, Paul Hostetter, Wanda Farson and Frank Fairchild. Other talented young people were drawn in from time to time, a few from outside the Church membership.

They gave much study to religious drama which was more difficult to give than secular plays.

Their first performance in religious drama was "The Sin of Ahab" and "Jezebel," two one-act plays showing that there are eternal laws and principles operating in human destiny and that to break these laws brings inevitable doom.

Though the Mummers were young and inexperienced in dramatics, "The Sin of Ahab" won second prize in the first city-wide religious tournament held at Sutherland Church. Mrs. A. Starr Best of Chicago, chairman of the Religious Drama Section of the Dramatic League of America who was in the city at that time for the purpose of creating interest in religious drama, was one of the judges.

In 1931 the Mummers won first prize with "Bread," a social play. The cast for the prize play was Adelaide Wagoner, Mary Brown, Russell Hutchinson, Martha Folk, Dorothy Aldag and Walter Spicklemeier. Only a few plays thereafter can be mentioned. "We open our 1930-31 season with the fifteenth play and the nineteenth appearance."

The Mummers were generous with their time and talent and gave performances at several other Churches.

Religious plays were given around Easter and at Christmas and secular plays at other times.

Of the Easter plays, "The Rock," showing the development of the character of Simon Peter, was given in the Church at Columbus, Indiana, and at Churches here in the city. "For He Had Great Possessions" was another popular drama.

At Christmas, "The Gift" was especially popular as were "Dust of the Road," "Light Upon the Way" and "Star of Bethlehem."

For several years midnight performances were given on Christmas Eve "and as we journeyed homeward on a clear, crisp night, the stars seemed very near and it took little stretch of the imagination to hear the song of the angel chorus, 'Peace on earth, good will to men.'"

Many secular plays were given, showing splendid talent and affording wholesome entertainment. And there was great variety in secular plays: comedy, farce, fantasy, romance, adventure, mystery.

"The Enemy," a World War drama, was probably the greatest undertaking. It had played on Broadway for two years. A newspaper

critic said of the performance here, "An excellent production." Harriette Perkins was the outstanding performer.

"The Fool" with Worth Barnett in the leading role received much favorable comment. Barnett played the part of a prosperous young minister who left his wealthy parish to work among the less fortunate.

The finished productions of late years showed that the Mummers had come a long way since "Hunkers Corners" in the old gym.

An orchestra of several pieces or a trio composed of Helene Kramer, piano; Jean Southard, cello, and Francis Loomis, violin, usually gave a musical program.

Back of all this stood Mrs. Loomis, "Loomy" as she was affectionately called; her co-worker, Mrs. Layman Kingsbury, and, in later years, Mrs. Albert Haskens.

For lighting effects, the stage was said to be the best equipped of any outside the regular theater. This was due largely to James Zoercher and Don Hopping.

Ann Hall, editor of the local paper, *The Irvingtonian*, besides helping with the plays, gave the Mummers fine publicity as did also the city papers.

And the Mummers not only gave the community inspiration and fine entertainment but did many deeds of kindness. On one occasion a group journeyed to Huntington to present a radio to a man who had given his health for humanity. John Kissinger, as an Army private in the Spanish-American War, had subjected himself to yellow fever tests in Cuba in an experiment to try to find the origin of that disease.

But the Mummers grew older—added responsibilities came—Mrs. Loomis resigned—TV became popular. Young talent joined the group but there was lack of leadership and not sufficient enthusiasm to keep up the interest at white heat. After just twenty years of wonderful service the Irvington Mummers ceased to exist.

Other Talent

In 1930 a group of men put on a minstrel show, "Whoopee Minstrels," for the gymnasium fund.

And in 1933 another was given, "The Jolly Rogers." The jokes were taken from our local community and the show made a great hit. Fay Gullion was interlocutor and Ralph Klare and Clell Rice were end men. The show was given two evenings and repeated elsewhere. A critic remarked, "Better than a professional troupe."

In November, 1930, a missionary play, "Sun-up," was given under the direction of Mrs. Fred Stilz.

The names of those taking character parts bring up pleasant memories: Dr. Silas Carr, Mrs. Nelson Elliott, Mrs. Fred Stilz, Florence Lupton and Mrs. Carl Stone.

The Women's Association

At the Communion service in October, 1930, Mrs. George Hay was received into the Church by letter from Frankfort, Kentucky (Presbyterian Church U.S.). After accepting invitations and visiting four women's organizations of that time she remarked to Dr. Ferguson that she thought the Northern Presbyterian Church much behind the Southern in its work for women; that the Southern Church through its General Assembly had worked out for all its Churches an organization that combined the work of all the groups. Her remarks were repeated and the women became interested. As a result, Mrs. Pegrum of Louisville, who was the official adviser and organizer in the Presbyterian Church U.S., was asked to come to Irvington to give a talk explaining the whole plan. After her first talk, a dinner meeting, representatives from the Aid, the Women's Missionary Society and the Mary Winks Guild met for discussion and carried back reports to their groups. This continued for several months and Mrs. Pegrum came for a second meeting. After considering the matter of unification throughout the Church year, a women's meeting was called and a secret ballot taken. The result was a big majority for the unified plan, the Auxiliary-Circle plan as it was called. The groups mentioned disbanded and a committee on constitution was appointed, consisting of Mrs. J. D. Hostetter, Miss Caroline McAdams and Mrs. Clell Rice, and the organization was completed with Mrs. Fred D. Stilz as its first president.

The Irvington Presbyterian Church was the first in the Indiana Synod to adopt the unified plan. In the early days many of our women were invited to visit other Churches and tell the women how our organization worked. Our constitution became a working model for a number of other groups. Later our General Council formulated a constitution and our old constitution was revised to conform to it. In recent years the name "The Women's Auxiliary" was changed to "Women's Association."

Other presidents through the years have been: Mrs. Marshall D.

Lupton (deceased), Mrs. Robert Aldag, Miss Emily McAdams, Mrs. Harlan W. Haworth, Mrs. A. E. Kuerst, Mrs. Ivan A. Hyfield, Mrs. James R. Loomis, Mrs. John H. Moffat (deceased), Mrs. Harold J. Stewart, Mrs. C. E. Donnell, Mrs. Joe Byrne, Mrs. Roy A. Geider, Mrs. Jack Andrews, Mrs. George A. Long and Mrs. William C. Gordon. Mrs. Joseph R. Luke is now serving her first year as president.

The first years of the Auxiliary were marked by having a number of outstanding speakers. Among them were Mrs. Ferguson's sister, Mrs. Hemmingway, and her daughter, Isabelle; Mr. DeWitt Morgan, principal of Arsenal Technical High School, and many others. One evening there was an embarrassing situation: Rabbi Steinberg, outstanding Jewish leader, was the speaker. The main dinner dish that evening was baked ham. Quickly some beef from a nearby restaurant was brought in but the situation was no better—the beef was not kosher.

The Sunday School

In the early thirties all except the Primary Department met together for opening and closing exercises. Only for Children's Day and Rally Day or some other special occasion did the entire School assemble. Gradually the School became departmentalized. In 1935 the Intermediate Department was organized with Mrs. Louis Bruck superintendent, but was soon taken over by Mrs. Ralph Johns and in 1936 by Miss Catherine Wegener. The Senior High Department was organized in the fall of 1936 with Mr. Ralph Johns, superintendent.

Fred Stilz had been directing the entire school, except the Primary Department, for seven years when Carl Stone took over in 1929. He was followed by Ralph Klare in 1932. Robert Aldag became General Superintendent in 1935 and was succeeded by Darrell Gooch. There were two years when directors of Christian Education held the departments together. Then came Dan Pierce in 1946, who continued for a number of years as superintendent and then became the first chairman of the Committee on Christian Education.

We cannot name all the department heads who were so faithful and efficient but these deserve special mention: Flora Anderson and Mrs. John Berry for years in the Primary and Dorothy Harder for more than twenty years the superintendent of the Junior Department.

Dr. Ferguson recalls this incident: A boy in the department caused so much trouble that at teachers' meeting it was suggested that his

parents be asked to keep him at home. But Miss Harder always pleaded, "Let me try a little harder." Referring to the "boy" Dr. Ferguson said, "I see him often—a fine, polite, respected young man who owes more than he will ever dream to his Sunday School teacher." Miss Harder was followed by Mrs. Robert King in 1944.

Space for classes became so limited that finally the study was taken and the pastor sought refuge in the coal cellar to think through his morning sermon.

The departments at that time were Cradle Roll, Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Adult. The adults met for a short time for opening and closing exercises in the Sanctuary but later they went immediately to their classrooms.

There were two adult classes for women. One was taught by Mrs. Tarpenning and later by Mrs. George A. Newton. Miss Emily McAdams taught the Philathea Class.

Mr. Tarpenning and Mr. A. A. Graham taught the men's class and then came John Moffat, a teacher of English in Manual Training High School, a man of exceptional ability. The class grew in numbers. It was known for its profitable discussions during the class period and contributed much toward good fellowship among the men of the Church.

Suppers were held monthly to which interesting speakers were invited. Senator Arthur Robinson spoke of his impressions while on a trip to Alaska. There were other prominent speakers and entertainers brought to the supper meetings—magicians, musicians, baseball experts, etc. There was an annual week-end outing, often at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Burroughs on Bruce Lake. At such times a Bible lesson was given on Sunday morning on the lake shore, which many from the surrounding community attended.

After Mr. Burroughs' death, the outing was held twice at the John B. Fergusons on North Twin Lake.

Paul Lambert must be remembered for his long and faithful service as secretary. He served 23 years, part of which he was both secretary and treasurer. He is now an elder in his home Church at Torrance, California.

The Amos Butler Class

In the twenties a mixed class for adults was taught by Marshall Lupton. Out of this class grew "The Young Married Peoples' Class"

which was organized in November, 1929, with Charles N. Smith, president, and Sue Sherburne, secretary.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these" was taken seriously by this class and the record shows that at their first Christmas season five bushel baskets of food were given to the needy and toys and clothing to six children. The custom of giving continued through the years.

During the summer months the class met for steak fries and swimming parties.

In 1930 the class sponsored the "Wooster College Glee Club" which enabled it to contribute \$50.00 to the building fund. A pledge of an additional \$100 was made for three years and this was later increased.

A unique feature of a "box-social" required the box be accompanied by a silhouette of the giver. The boxes were sold at auction, bids being made on the silhouette.

In the late thirties this class precipitated a rather "warm" discussion in the Session. They wanted to dance in the gym. An honored elderly elder objected seriously "there should be no dancing by a Church organization in any part of the Church" and it was "so ordered" by the Session. But at the next meeting of the Session, that elder was absent, and the elders present voted that "all reference to dancing be expunged from the minutes." Modern leaven had begun to work. The subject received no further attention from the Session.

When the class members realized that "young" was a misnomer they became the Married Peoples' Class and later, The Amos Butler Class. The Class continued into the late forties when they became a part of "The Coffee Class," now taught by Erle A. Kightlinger.

Teachers of the Class were: Albert Stump, J. J. Brown, Amos Butler and O. S. Flick. It had meant much to the social and spiritual life of that age group.



AMOS W. BUTLER

Young People's Work

After Mrs. Loomis was appointed organist in 1928 it became necessary for her to have help in conducting Young People's Work. Mrs. Merrill took over the Intermediate group and Mr. and Mrs. Layman Kings-

bury came to sponsor the young people's meetings at 6:30 on Sunday evenings. After a time they were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Klippel, who gave three years of service. They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. George Gable. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Huston sponsored the Social Fellowship of the Intermediate group in 1936 and Mrs. Ralph Johns was the Sunday evening sponsor for the Senior High School Group. Thus eight years before the Westminster Fellowship became an all-inclusive organization group in the Presbyterian Church, the Irvington Church had an all-inclusive organization. That is, all young people of high school age and those just out of high school became the Young People's Department of the Church. If these young people belonged to the Sunday School they belonged to the Tuxis on Sunday evening. All activities were planned on this basis.

Those assisting with young people's groups were, successively: Dr. and Mrs. Cliff Donnell, Mr. and Mrs. Worth Barnett and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ewing. During two years of that time Mrs. Johns was living in the Wallace Street Presbyterian Church parish and directed the young people there.

A Junior group met with Mrs. Ferguson as leader for a time, then with Flora Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Newgent. The Newgent and Donnell yards were the scenes of many picnics.

In the fall of 1938, Miss Winona Arrick came from a position as director of religious education in the Dundee Church in Omaha to visit her uncle in Irvington, Mr. Harry Henderson. When Dr. Ferguson learned of her presence in the community and her willingness to take a job, he went to one of the men of the Church and laid our needs before him, with the result that he bore the expense of her service until the next Congregational Meeting when she became a member of the staff. She gave fine leadership to the youth work but will be best remembered for two things:

First—The Christmas Candlelight Service.

The candlelight service we have today had a modest beginning in the early thirties.

An Irvington kindergarten had been given the privilege of holding its Christmas program in our Sanctuary. The little children dressed in robes, marched in processional and sang Christmas carols. This was followed by the Christmas story beautifully told.

Mr. Robert Aldag was general superintendent of the Sunday School at that time and he and Mrs. Aldag were so impressed that, with the



WINONA ARRICK CAYAN



EDA BORSETH



MRS. RALPH JOHNS

aid of Mrs. James Loomis, the organist and choir director, they worked out a service for the Sunday School, using lighted candles in the windows and adding a few other features.

When Miss Arrick came she introduced a central character and a few other features including the choir. This became so popular in the community that it became necessary to have two services—at 4:30 and 7:30 P.M. Through the years it has had other features added—the Westminster Choir, the verse-speaking choir directed by Darrell Gooch, the strolling carollers with violinist in old English costume and the three wise men who present their gifts at the altar. Preceding the service beautiful organ music with Mr. Clarence Elbert, organist, is featured.

The second thing for which she will be best remembered was the forming of a class for young married folks, especially concerned with teaching religion to their children. Out of this grew a club that they named "The Wedding Ring." It met once a month and was largely social. Its primary purpose was to provide a means by which young married couples in the Church could become better acquainted and, second, to contact new young couples in the community, offering them the fellowship of the group.

Miss Arrick remained until October of 1940 when she went to a similar work at Muskegon, Michigan.

The next summer came Miss Eda Borseth who had been graduated from the School of Christian Education connected with McCormick Seminary. She gave valuable leadership in parents' meetings, and in the various departments, thus preparing the way for the New Cur-

riculum. After two years of service here she went to the House of Hope Church in Minneapolis and is now serving under our Board of Christian Education.

In the summer of 1941 Hugh Schuster, a middler in McCormick Seminary, came to work with youth, to preach during the pastor's vacation and to help in the Church generally. After his graduation he continued in youth work for a time and has been pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Greensburg since 1950.

The Church was growing in all departments and it was thought best to call an assistant minister. Alan Gripe, one of our own boys, was a student in Princeton Theological Seminary at that time and told us of Edward C. McCance who was being graduated that spring, May, 1944. Mr. McCance came and spent a week end with us in late March. The congregation was so impressed by his gracious personality that he received a call. Two days after graduation he married Miss Geneva Hess of Allentown, and off to Irvington they came on their honeymoon.

June 26, 1944, he was ordained in this Church. He wanted to preach as well as work with youth and it was arranged that he should preach one Sunday morning and evening a month. He was also assistant editor of *The Irvington Presbyterian*, providing news of young people. He made a fine place for himself in the community and his wife was a real helpmate.

One contribution Mr. McCance made was the organization of the "Mariners' Club." It was a nationally organized Presbyterian group emphasizing the close and holy relations of family life; the initiation ceremony was serious and deeply impressive. The Mariners, changed only in personnel, remain with us to welcome newly married couples in the Church and keep them in their group until they reach the combined age of 65. For those who reached that age a group of Ancient Mariners was organized.

After remaining two years Mr. McCance accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Portland, Indiana, where he remained six years. He is now the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Warsaw, Indiana.

Following the McCances came Mrs. Ralph Johns, who had been acting as director of youth work during several interims when help was needed. She came to us as the official director of Religious Education in the fall of 1946, which office she filled with abounding



Rev. Edward C. McCance and Dr. Ferguson at ordination, June 26, 1944

life and enthusiasm until her resignation August 1, 1950. During recent years Mrs. Johns has received wide recognition as a leader of youth and as a recreation leader.

The Junior High Westminster Fellowship was organized, meeting on Monday afternoons from 3:30 to 7:30. The girls came at 3:30 for recreation and special activities. The boys came in at 4:30 and at this time they met together for a fellowship of discussion, a speaker, an Audio-Visual program, etc. These meetings were planned and presided over by different members of the group. At 5:15 a supper was served by two of the parents from the group at a cost of twenty-five cents. After supper there was basketball for those who wanted to play, and for others at various times was table tennis, dramatics, choir and handcrafts. On special occasions the boys and girls both would come in at 3:30 for folk dancing, volleyball, softball, rehearsing for special functions. There were generally 70 to 80 boys and girls from the seventh and eighth grades in attendance every Monday afternoon and evening. Boys and girls were coming in from other Churches, so Dr. Ferguson and Mrs. Johns prevailed upon the Methodist and Downey Avenue Churches to organize Junior High groups because so many boys and girls wanted to be a part of this kind of fellowship. They complied.

The Senior High School Choir which rehearsed on Sunday afternoons became a very vital part of the Church program during these years by singing at the first Church service each Sunday morning. The 35-voice choir was robed in beautiful blue robes. The first fall

retreat for the Senior High Department was held in 1947 and has been an annual affair since that time. The first retreat was held at McCormick's Creek State Park.

Mr. and Mrs. James Zoercher were the advisers for the Sunday evening fellowship. A supper was served each Sunday by two mothers and two fathers from this group, at a cost of twenty-five cents. Mrs. Harry Gorman was chairman of the suppers for both the Junior High and Senior High Fellowships.

The Senior High Westminster Fellowship which met on Sunday held to the following schedule most of the time: Choir 4:30-5:30; Supper 5:30-6:00; Fellowship of discussion, speaker, Audio-Visuals, etc., 6:00-7:00; Recreation in the gym 7:00-8:00. Sometimes this would vary according to the program. The attendance during these four years was from 40 to 60 young people every Sunday evening and running over 100 on special occasions.

A certificate of recognition was given to the Youth Department by the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church for having fulfilled the Eight Basic Standards of Westminster Fellowship. An unusual spirit of oneness in Christ was apparent in this group of young people.

One of the highlights of this period was the introduction of the Christian Faith and Life Curriculum in the Church School in 1948.

Youth Week was observed between the last Sunday in January and the first Sunday in February. The week closed with a dinner meeting on the last Sunday evening. At that time an outstanding speaker and pep singing gave enthusiasm and inspiration for the year to follow.

At the beginning of that week, some boy who had shown unusual interest was chosen Youth Pastor for the year. He presided at public youth services during the year. Also during this week, youth were elected by their fellows to various Boards. They sometimes met with representatives of the Church Boards to learn the duties of their office. For a few years they reported what they had learned at the next Sunday evening service.

The story of the youth of the Church of this period would not be complete without mentioning Scout Troop 3. Frank Osler became scoutmaster in 1930. In the succession of scoutmasters is to be named Harold Lanham who succeeded Mr. Osler in 1935. An outstanding scoutmaster was John McPheeters who took over in 1939 and con-

tinued until he joined the Army and was sent overseas. Lieutenant Colonel McPheeters gave his life on Anzio Beach. Our first troop of Sea Scouts was named for him, "The Johnnie Mac," and was organized by Ralph Johns. One who gave a long and excellent service was Charles Carr, who spent many nights camping with the boys, often in the hut built by Dr. Silas Carr when his two boys were members of Troop 3.

One of the great events of the year was a picnic supper at what is now Camp Belzer when the boys invited their families. Another was the chili supper during Scout Week when all Scouts and Cubs and their families brought chili and put it in a common pot to make a wonderful combination. The supper was followed by stunts and the giving of awards.

In 1940 Jim Hall and Jim Kirkhoff received the highest honor given in scouting, Minissini.

At that time there were as many as five Cub Scout dens. In that work Maurice Fields and Charles N. Smith served as cubmasters for several years.

Commitments to the Ministry

We are grateful for our youth who have committed themselves to full-time service.

Paul Hostetter was graduated from Union Theological Seminary, New York, and ordained in our Church in 1937.

Alan Gripe took his college work at Lake Forest. He was graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary, May 21, 1946, and was appointed as missionary to the Philippines by our Board of Foreign Missions and was ordained in his home Church June 2.

After three years in the Philippines he spent two years as assistant chaplain at West Point. He is now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Westfield, New York.

Edward Collier after four years at Hanover, went to McCormick Theological Seminary where he was graduated in 1945. He was ordained in his first Church at LaGrange, Indiana, and is now pastor of "The Parish of the Eternal Hills" in Colorado.

War Years and Our Boys in the Service

Dr. Ferguson recalls, and we quote, "During the war years 1941-1945 there was an intensity of feeling in all worship services. You felt people came to Church, not through custom, but because they needed

the presence of God to get them through the week. We all recall singing every Sunday, 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save,' and it took on a new meaning." The names of the boys and their addresses were printed in the bulletin when they left for camp. The minister wrote to the boys and generally received replies. That the congregation might share these letters, Ed Bruck proposed a monthly Church paper be published. It bore the name of the one Dr. Allison had published but which was discontinued in 1929, *The Irvington Presbyterian*. Matt Farson of the Campbell Advertising Agency became business manager and solicited advertising for it. Dr. Ferguson was the editor. He wrote news of the boys, and published letters.

Tragedy soon stalked in our midst. On June 28, 1944, a first memorial service was held for four of our young men: Lieutenant Lawrence Abram, Lieutenant John Paul Ragsdale Jr., Lieutenant Robert Stultz and Lieutenant Colonel John McPheeters.

The next year, May 27, a service was held for Sergeant Edward Mayfield Ragsdale, Lieutenant Louis Bruck, Lieutenant Robert Smith and Private Robert Dickerson. Albert Beveridge and Bill Byrket, pilots long declared missing, were never found.

On June 1, 1947, a beautiful service was held dedicating the bronze plaque now in the narthex bearing these words: "This tablet is dedicated to the memory of men of the Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II—

*'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
for their works do follow them.'*

Lawrence Ray Abram
William E. Byrket
John Paul Ragsdale, Jr.
Robert Mark Stultz
John William McPheeters
Edward Mayfield Ragsdale

Louis William Bruck, Jr.
Robert Gilmour Smith
Robert Stanley Dickerson
Nathaniel Joseph Crawford
Albert Henry Beveridge

"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, age
shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going
down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them."

Private George Arthur Frantz on August 11, 1950, was reported missing in action on the Korean front since July 11, 1950.

Captain Donald Beam was killed in a plane crash while returning from a visit to his mother in Indianapolis in late April, 1953.

Prayer Meetings

Midweek prayer meetings were continued through the years except occasionally in the vacation time of the minister. Some were supper meetings but during the depression this was not practicable even at twenty-five cents per plate or for a covered-dish supper.

Efforts of various sorts were made to increase attendance, but few came except on special occasions. For a few years a school of missions was held for six weeks, for the study of a mission book of the year, but few besides the faithful attended. Sometimes Dr. Ferguson conducted a series of Bible lessons and those who came were richly rewarded.

One meeting will not be forgotten. Dr. Ferguson had been with the Irvington Church nine years when he was asked if he would consider becoming Executive Secretary of Synod. He harbored the idea that when a minister had preached at a Church ten years the congregation should have an opportunity to choose another minister if it seemed desirable. This was his opportunity to make the test. He prepared his resignation and chose to read it first to the more intimate group—those who attended prayer meeting. At the close of the reading he said, "Mr. Graham, will you lead us in prayer?" Mr. A. A. Graham, an elderly saint whose voice was often heard in prayer, paused for a moment, straightened himself, and in a choking voice replied, "I can't do it, Dr. Ferguson." Neither could anyone else that night and Dr. Ferguson had to do the praying himself.

Anniversary Meetings

A Twenty-fifth Anniversary was held June 2, 1931. The announcement read: "For the sake of old days, with many a holy remembrance of God's guidance and ministering comfort, those who through the past years or any part of them have shared in the blessings and work of the Church will want to be present on this Sunday. Those of us who are new clearly recognize our debt to the past, appreciating the devotion and sacrificial service of ministers and people who have given us an organization so strong and capable, a place of worship so beautiful and inspiring."

- 10:45 A.M. Anniversary address by Dr. George William Allison, pastor of the Church 1919-1930, under whose inspiring leadership this building was erected.
- 8:00 P.M. The story of the organization of the Church and its early development will be told.
- 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 10 (the actual date of organization). An informal meeting. Scenes of old days will be thrown on the screen.

The Fortieth Anniversary was celebrated June 9, 1946.

Special anniversary services at the morning and evening worship were held in the sanctuary, with Dr. George William Allison, pastor 1919-1930, preaching in the morning and Dr. Loudon Harriman, pastor 1917-1918, preaching in the evening.

A meeting was held in the afternoon when there was special music by the choir and a recognition of charter members present: Edgar A. Perkins, Thomas H. Kaylor, Mrs. Alta Stewart, Mrs. Earl Lawson (Edith Olsen), Mrs. Sebastian (Katherine Price), Miss Marie Stewart, Edgar A. Perkins Jr.

Union Services

Irvington has always been known for its activities as a community. The Union Church services which Dr. Allison took so active a part in instituting have continued through the years.

The pastors of the four Churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, Christian and Episcopal—formed themselves into a ministerial association that has planned union meetings. Through the years since the pastors of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed, Irvington Nazarene and Emerson Avenue Baptist have joined this association.

The two outstanding Union Services were Thanksgiving and Good Friday.

It had been the custom to hold the Thanksgiving service on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Dr. Ferguson had the conviction that a community which would not go to a Thanksgiving service on the day set apart was lacking in religious patriotism, and so expressed himself. But the opinion of the other ministers prevailed. In Dr. Ferguson's words, "It pleased the Lord to do something about it. That Thanksgiving Wednesday night, 1930, there was a

blizzard. Only a handful of people came to the large Methodist Church. We four ministers took part. The next fall, in 1931, I could argue for a change."

That year the Thanksgiving service began at ten o'clock sharp and lasted an hour. To the surprise of everyone there was a splendid attendance and through 1948 there was never a poor attendance.

The Good Friday service, too, was for one hour, each minister speaking fifteen minutes, with fifteen minutes of music preceding the service for meditation.

The Week of Prayer was observed with Union Services through Thursday evening, leaving Friday evening as a preparatory service and for meeting with those who wished to unite with the Church. The attendance was not good. In an effort to increase interest, outside speakers were invited two years. The Rev. Henry H. Halley, who was known for his ability to recite from memory great portions of the Bible, came one year, and one week Mrs. Victoria Booth Demarest preached evenings. So interested were many that Mrs. Demarest was invited to remain over the week end and speak on Monday evening to women. There was a good attendance at her meetings.

There were times when we had Union Communion services, the elements being served according to the custom of the Church where we met.

There were watch night meetings on New Year's eve. And there was a great Union Service when World War II closed. A program had been prepared by the Federal Council of Churches to be given when the news came. That service was held in the Presbyterian Church and the Sanctuary was full to capacity with thankful people.

There were open-air Union Services held on the lawn of the Downey Avenue parish house. The porch of the parish house was an ideal pulpit and ideal for the choir, with the people in the yard.

The four Churches in turn furnished the minister and the choir.

After all the Churches in Irvington had given up Sunday evening services except the Presbyterian, there was an effort made to have a Union Service in that Church once a month and sometimes the Church was filled to hear some noted speaker. One Sunday evening the speaker was Wayne Guthrie of the Indianapolis News. He had represented that paper at Bikini for the testings of the Atom Bomb. The Church was crowded that evening. The Reverend Ralph Pearson of the Methodist Church was sitting near Dr. Ferguson, and leaning

over said, "It takes an atom bomb to get Irvington folks to Church on a Sunday evening."

Our Own Evening Services

In vain, the Deacons tried to get Dr. Ferguson to give up the Sunday evening services. He admits he was "pure stubborn." He felt that one Church should be open on Sunday evening. To increase interest and attendance many noted speakers were invited to speak: ministers from the other city Churches, civic leaders, missionaries, prominent men from our National Boards. Missionary movies were introduced. But usually few came on Sunday evenings.

The Mummers sometimes gave a play in the Social Hall and at such times the Hall was filled. But usually the attendance was small.

The Gymnasium

When the present Church was built there was no high school in Irvington—no gym except a small one at the Downey Avenue Church.

Ours was a beautiful gym, occupying the whole second floor of the educational building and was two stories high with a balcony for spectators. We thought it was a wonderful asset, not realizing the trouble that would arise.

In basketball-minded Indiana, it afforded a splendid place for Church and inter-Church tournaments. After Scout meetings the boys went to the gym for all sorts of games but generally for basketball. In a limited way, the girls used it also. For some years there was a men's night for volleyball. The Irvington branch of the Y. M. C. A. used it and furnished their own supervisor. But the Women's Parlor, used for general meetings, and the other rooms of the educational building were under it. Imagine trying to have a meeting in one of these rooms with a ball game going on overhead. The sound was too distracting. When meetings were held, the gym was ordered closed and there were cries of indignation. The gym had been built primarily for the youth of the Church but it was seen that the number using it was out of proportion to those who were engaged in our youth activities. Then, too, where there was an "open-to-all" gym without constant supervision there was damage to property. When the expansion program was being planned a Church building expert told the committee that new Churches were not providing gyms. So the gym that had given so much happiness and trouble was divided into two floors providing better facilities for the Bible School.

Gifts

The congregation deeply appreciates the gifts that have been given. It is impossible to mention all the names of those who gave hours of labor during this period.

The lovely bronze flower vases beside the chancel steps were given, one by Miss Mary Ann McCoy in memory of her parents and the other by Mrs. Will Brown in memory of her husband, Trustee of the Church and treasurer of the board at the time of his death. The beautiful pulpit chairs, designed by architect Merritt Harrison and made by a skilled woodworker, were given, one by Mrs. Amos Butler, a charter member, in memory of her husband, also a charter member and organizer of the Church in 1906; the other by Mrs. Marshall D. Lupton in memory of her husband, long an elder in the Church. Mr. John Moffat gave a beautiful silver set to the Women's Association in memory of Mrs. Moffat, who was president of the Association at the time of her death. Mr. John M. Smith made an attractive ship's wheel for the Johnnie Mac Sea Scouts and also a kneeling bench for the Sanctuary for use at weddings and baptisms. Mr. L. B. Mosiman gave to it the upholstery. All the candle holders for the windows were made by John M. Smith and Ellis King. Men gave hours of work many evenings, laying asbestos tile floors in the downstairs rooms under the direction of Oscar Erikson, DeForrest Bowman and Don Hopping.

Catherine Wegener, superintendent of the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School and later a Deaconess and an Elder, saw the necessity of a parking lot and gave for that purpose a check for \$175, a tithe of a legacy she had received. This was applied to the three lots east of the Church. The congregation had wanted to buy these lots when the Church was built but they were held at too high a price. Mr. Russell Newgent, a Trustee, personally purchased the lots and held them until in 1940 when the Church received a legacy of \$2,000 from the will of Mrs. Ruth Towles, a charter member. The lots once held at an extravagant price are now Church property.

The Irvington Chapter of Presbyterian Men

Approximately a hundred Presbyterian men, with the pastor, Dr. Ferguson, met November 23, 1948, in the dining room of the Church to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner and to hear John M. Smith, a business

executive and president of the Council of Presbyterian Men of the Indianapolis Presbytery, explain the purpose of and the need for a chapter of Presbyterian Men in the Irvington Church.

Impressed by the opportunities such an organization afforded and to keep the wheels moving toward securing a local chapter, the following officers were elected: James M. Booe, president; Dr. Thomas H. Beavers, vice-president, and B. Gaylord Evans, secretary-treasurer.

On National Layman's Day the preliminary aims were presented before a Church audience. A committee on constitution was appointed, consisting of John B. Ferguson, retiring pastor; Howard W. Stone, the incoming pastor; Robert Aldag, clerk of the Session; George G. Fassnacht, president of the Board of Deacons; J. Harold Wright, president of the Board of Trustees; Dan Pierce, general superintendent of the Sunday School; John M. Smith, president of the Council of Presbyterian Men; Edgar A. Perkins Jr., chairman of the finance committee; and Marion G. Parker, president of the Men's Bible Class. The constitution was presented and adopted at a dinner meeting, September 20, 1949. The first officers were: James M. Booe, president; Thomas H. Beavers, vice-president; B. Gaylord Evans, secretary-treasurer.

The constitution stated ten objectives covering important phases of Church life. It won national recognition. Mr. Paul Moser, executive secretary of the National Council of Presbyterian Men, was so impressed with it that he sent it to every Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. calling attention to its "well-developed plan of manlike Churchmanship" and commending it to other chapters for careful study.

I. C. P. M. Presidents 1948-1956: James M. Booe, Thomas H. Beavers, Harold D. Bishop, Lloyd B. Mosiman, Erle A. Kightlinger Jr., John Paul Ragsdale, George J. Ress, LeRoy Miller.

Retirement

In the Congregational Meeting of 1947, Dr. Ferguson announced his intentions of retiring on his seventieth birthday, June, 1949.

A pastoral committee was appointed with O. S. Flick, chairman. Two years gave the committee plenty of time to explore the field.

June 26, 1949, marked the final day of Dr. Ferguson's active pastorate at the Irvington Church. That day he became Pastor Emeritus. It also marked the forty-second anniversary of the Fergu-

sons' marriage and the forty-first anniversary of his ordination as a minister.

It was quite appropriate that June 26, 1949, we should all unite in the Communion service and that a "Love Feast," as it was called, should follow in Ellenberger Park, to which the whole community of friends was invited.

The papers said there were 700 present at the "basket dinner" and the program following. The five Ferguson children with their families came for the occasion and there were several former Church members who came from faraway.

Mr. Richard Orton and the orchestra furnished lovely music, and George Newton Jr. led in the hymn singing.

The Reverend F. W. Wiegmann, pastor of the Downey Avenue Christian Church, spoke well on behalf of Irvington in appreciation of the Fergusons.

The Reverend Edward C. McCance, a former assistant pastor of the Church, and the Reverend E. K. Higdon also spoke.

Miss Emily McAdams, on behalf of the congregation, presented a gift of \$1,000 to cheer them on their way.

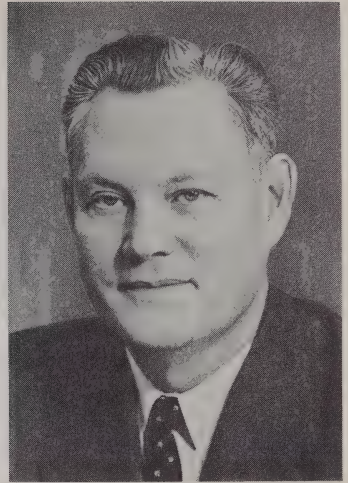
They were to begin a trip around the world, boarding the plane *Westward Ho* at San Francisco, August 2.

They went first to Manila, where Dr. Ferguson served the Union Church for a year and a half. They took a trip to Australia, then across Asia, visiting many mission stations, then across Europe, stopping to visit for a short time in England.

While they were away, we looked forward eagerly to a letter each month in *The Irvington Presbyterian*. Since their return in early September, 1951, they have shared many of their rich experiences with us.

At home again, Dr. Ferguson has served as interim pastor for several Churches but he finds time to visit the troubled in mind or body, a service for which he is a marvel to other pastors.

DR. HOWARD W. STONE
1949 - — —



CHAPTER XI

The Mantle Falls on Dr. Howard W. Stone

IT WAS WELL KNOWN that Dr. Ferguson was eager that Dr. Howard W. Stone of the Presbyterian Church at Franklin be his successor. The Pastoral Committee, O. S. Flick, chairman, visited Dr. Stone at the Franklin Church. They also visited other Churches but always came back to the Church at Franklin. The committee was unanimous in recommending Dr. Stone to the congregation and the congregation was happy to extend the call. He had received a call from another Church but after a time of deliberation chose to accept the call to the Irvington Church.

Howard Warner Stone was born January 16, 1907, at Boissevain, Manitoba. In 1928 he was graduated from Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota, with an A.B. degree. He taught school for a few years and then entered the Western Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh. While there he worked with Dr. Louis Evans, a great preacher then, and now known throughout our denomination as pastor at large of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Dr. Evans had preached at the little North Dakota town of Westhope where Mrs. Stone and her four sons lived. Dr. Alexander Sharp had also preached there. Could it be that coming in contact with these two men had something to do with Howard Stone deciding to enter the ministry?

Before entering the Seminary at Pittsburgh, he was married to Margaret Mitchell, who was graduated "cum laude" from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1927. She, too, was a teacher.

Howard Stone was graduated from the Theological Seminary in May, 1937, with the degree of S.T.B. He was awarded a fellowship by the Seminary for study abroad but he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, Indiana. War conditions inter-

fered with hopes for later European study. His work among the young people and at the Masonic Home was outstanding.

From the beginning of World War II, Dr. Stone felt strongly that God was calling him to Christian work among the soldiers, and he announced to the Session August 23, 1943, his purpose to apply for a chaplaincy in the Army. The Session, recognizing his ability and impressed by his sincerity, voted a leave of absence, should he be accepted. The congregation, believing it their duty, concurred with the action of the Session.

After completing his work in the Chaplains' School at Harvard University he reported to the Headquarters of the Army Air Force, Central Flying Training Command, San Antonio, Texas, Randolph Field. At Randolph Field he was assigned to the Chaplaincy of the A.A.F. Instruction School at Bryan, Texas. At San Antonio he had been joined by Mrs. Stone and son, Robert Franklin, and later they made their home in Caldwell and then College Station until the close of the war when they returned to Franklin and Dr. Stone resumed the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church.

1949. ———

Dr. Stone got his first introduction to the work of the Church on Palm Sunday, 1949. The boys and girls of the communicants' class were to appear before the Session that day to show how much of the catechism they knew and understood. There were also a number of adults seeking membership. Dr. Ferguson was ill in the hospital and Dr. Stone came up from Franklin to act as moderator. Dr. and Mrs. Stone and their two children, Robert and Katharine, came to live in the manse, 776 North Audubon Road, in May, 1949.

Dr. Stone was installed as pastor May 15, 1949. The Church was crowded, every seat in the gallery taken. An adjourned meeting of Presbytery held preceding the installation had brought a number of people from out of the city. Choir singing of Buck's "Te Deum" and a solo "These Are They" by Doris Prince made a splendid setting for the service.

The Reverend C. Franklin Bruce, moderator of the Indianapolis Presbytery, presided. The Reverend Roy E. Mueller, new executive secretary of the Synod of Indiana, read the scripture. The installation prayer was offered by the Reverend Roy E. Connor Jr. of Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church. Dr. George Arthur Frantz of First

Church gave the sermon on the theme, "The Publicity of Power," the story of the First Church of Jerusalem at Pentecost. The charge to the pastor was given by Dr. Alexander Sharp Sr. and the charge to the people by Dr. John B. Ferguson, who spoke out of a full heart after nineteen years with this people. So applicable were his words that the sermon was printed for distribution.

After the benediction by Dr. Stone, he and his wife stood together and received the good wishes of the people.

In September, vacations over, all departments of the Church took on activities under the guidance of Dr. Stone, who now gave evidence of the superb leadership which has characterized his ministry.

A series of Family Night Dinners was planned beginning September 28 and continuing through December 7. These dinners were designed for rich Christian fellowship, for family worship, and inspiration for all. They have proved an asset both spiritually and socially. These dinners were prepared by a cateress, assisted in turn by circles from the Women's Association. The price per plate was cut to the minimum, especially favoring large families. A nursery was provided for small children and the older children, after a brief worship service, met in a separate group. They usually played games or were entertained by a movie. An inspiring program was planned for adults.

The dinners continue to the present time. The writer of Mark's Gospel, speaking of the crowds that came to hear Jesus, says "... and they had no leisure so much as to eat." Not so with Irvington Presbyterians. An outsider remarked, "Presbyterians are the eatingest people I have ever known." We admit it. The breaking of bread together promotes Christian fellowship. Delectable cookies and coffee are usually served after a prayer meeting or Bible study held on nights other than dinner nights. That induces people to linger and become better acquainted. Such occasions are an asset both spiritually and socially.

Various groups of young people held picnics in the home or on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johns, repeatedly enjoying the Johns' hospitality.

Twenty of our young people had attended summer camp conferences and four had gone with Mrs. Johns, a counselor, to the Regional Interdenominational Conference at Lake Geneva. These meetings gave inspiration for beginning the fall work. September 17 and 18, the Westminster Fellowship held its annual Fall Retreat at Camp

Friendly, in McCormick's Creek State Park, for the planning of the year's program.

The newly organized I.C.P.M. (Irvington Chapter of Presbyterian Men) got off to a good start by giving their first Fish Fry, Thursday-Friday-Saturday evenings, September 22-24, 1949, the proceeds of which were to go toward furnishing robes for the youth choir.

President Booe appointed the following committees: Projects, Richard Huggins; Program, Richard Lawrence; Publicity, Harold Stewart; Tickets, Ralph Shimer; Youth Committee headed by James Zoercher.

The parking lot east of the Church took on a festive appearance with its decorations, big tent and concessions. It had been widely publicized and crowds came. They satisfied themselves with the tempting food and neighborly chat and the children enjoyed the pony track and movies, the fish pond and wishing well, etc. A friendly attitude prevailed until ten o'clock when the lights went out. A neat sum had been raised and a fellowship had been promoted. The I.C.P.M. members had carried out three of their objectives as stated in their constitution: "to participate in fund-raising enterprises for the Church," "to promote Christian fellowship," "to aid and support our youth activities." There were three Fish Fries on succeeding Septembers and one in June.

In November a rummage sale was conducted in one of the city's needy districts.

The Church was beginning to feel the lack of facilities, especially for our children and youth. At a Session meeting Dr. Stone spoke of our many needs and one elder said, "I want to give \$1,000 to provide a more adequate Church School"; another said, "I will give \$500 as an investment for the future." Another said, "There is nothing we cannot do if we have faith enough." The moderator put the question in an editorial in *The Irvington Presbyterian*, "Christians! What are you sacrificing for the cause of Christ?"

Such were the "seeds" that were planted and grew, preparing the way for a greater service for our Church and through it for the Kingdom of God.

It became evident early in 1950 that, due to increasing membership, an assistant pastor was imperative. A Congregational Meeting, March 5, 1950, authorized the appointment of the following pastoral committee to interview candidates and make a recommendation: John



EMERSON OLDS HOUSER

M. Smith, Mrs. Harold J. Stewart, Mrs. Prescott Jensen, Harold Mutz, Lloyd Mosiman, Sara Ewing and Seward Craig. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the committee and the acceptance of the report by the congregation, the Reverend Emerson Olds Houser, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, LaGrange, Illinois, accepted the position.

Mr. Houser was graduated from Harvard University and Union Theological Seminary. He came to us after rich experience in Church work both as a pastor and with youth. He had served as National Stewardship Director of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and had represented the Presbyterian Church at the World Conference on Stewardship and Church Finance at Edinburgh, Scotland.

The family, Mr. and Mrs. Houser and their two children, Helen Lois and Emerson, moved to Irvington in midsummer to occupy the manse at 5836 East Michigan Street, which had been recently purchased by the Trustees.

Mr. Houser began his ministry August 1, supplying the pulpit while Dr. Stone was on vacation, through the first Sunday in September. Soon after Mr. Houser began his work great emphasis was placed on Christian Stewardship. Starting with the Primary Department in the Sunday School, and up through the Senior-Hi Department, the subject was emphasized—the Christian's giving of time, talent and money.

The Church was deeply grateful when two more of her sons, David J. Cull and Thomas H. Johns, were set apart to become Presbyterian ministers.

David Cull was graduated from Wooster College and McCormick Theological Seminary and was ordained April 17, 1951. He is now minister of Summerville Presbyterian Church at Rochester, N. Y.

Thomas Johns was graduated from Hanover College and Louisville Theological Seminary. He preached in this, his home Church, at both morning services January 8, 1956, and that evening his ordination was conducted at 7:30. He immediately went to Hanover and assumed the chaplaincy of the college.



Frank Mutz, Merritt Harrison, George D. Thornton

Vision Becomes a Reality

Where there is no vision the people perish. PROVERBS 29:18.

By 1950 it seemed that the Irvington Presbyterian Church was approaching a crisis. The Church attendance far exceeded that of the Sunday School. A study made by Charles N. Smith, chairman of the Council of Christian Education, revealed some astonishing facts. During the years 1930-1950, the Church attendance increased 262% and the attendance at Sunday School only 2%. Since "the children of today are the Church of tomorrow," something had to be done. A Planning Committee with Elder Frank Mutz, chairman, and leaders of the Sunday School made a study of the situation and came to the conclusion that our Sunday School was being dwarfed for lack of facilities—with only eight single rooms for thirty classes, and classes meeting in passageways and assembly areas.

Something had to be done.

A planning committee went to work to study the needs and work out a solution. Not satisfied to rely completely on their own observation and judgment they employed an expert analyst, Professor John Nixon of McCormick Theological Seminary, to study our Church and make recommendations.

On Saturday, February 4, 1950, Mr. Nixon met with the planning

committee both afternoon and evening. On Sunday he observed the Church and the Church School and that afternoon spoke at an open meeting of our Church members. He revealed that the Irvington Church is strategically located and with expanded facilities destined to serve one of the largest parishes in Indianapolis.

He was impressed by the leadership both as to quality and numbers —“There are very few Churches,” he said, “that have as large a number of highly qualified lay people. With your potentialities you should become a great Church.” He advised us to build at the earliest possible moment to meet our expanding needs.

Ralph Klare was appointed publicity chairman and planning began at once. A poster contest for Youth was announced and March 15, 1951, an enthusiastic dinner meeting was held in the dining room with posters along the east wall. Four prizes were awarded. The first prize bore the slogan “Make our dollars count,” and was won by Helen Lois Houser.

Mr. Klare produced a beautifully illustrated brochure showing our achievements, our needs and the service of tomorrow under the caption, “WORK TO BE DONE IN '51.”

The annual Congregational Meeting, January 31, 1951, gave the “go” sign. A Finance Committee with Lloyd B. Mosiman, chairman, was appointed and a financial campaign was launched. The first step was to raise \$200,000 over a period of three years, with four objectives:

First: The Board of Trustees to clear the mortgage on the Church and the two newly acquired manses, of about \$40,000.

Second: An immediate interior building rearrangement made for a more adequate use of the space available.

Third: The Educational Building to have an addition to the east, a three-story structure.

Fourth: A transept to be added on the east of the Sanctuary.

The campaign was scheduled for April 15-June 3. Training conferences and report meetings were included in the plan. The solicitors were organized by divisions, each having a leader:

- (a) A division of women, 50 in number.
- (b) A division of young people, 30 in number.
- (c) A division of couples, 50 in number.

These divisions were divided into groups with 38 captains and it is remarkable that “not one that was asked to be a captain refused.”

The Kick-off Dinner, April 9, 1951, "to start the ball rolling," was a happy event. It was said "It couldn't be done" but it was done—the dinner was served in the gymnasium.

Mrs. Joe Byrne was general manager, a group of men directed by Marshall Benefiel assisted the women in getting food from the kitchen; Boy Scouts carried tables and chairs and Richard Lawrence took care of flag decorations and such details as amplifier system and a platform for the speaker. The gym was filled to capacity.

It was inspiring to have five charter members present: Edgar A. Perkins Sr., Edgar A. Perkins Jr., Roger Perkins, Mrs. Earl Lawson and Merrill Woods; also, George D. Thornton, chairman of the Building Committee that helped launch the present Church structure on its significant voyage.

Lloyd B. Mosiman was chairman. Dr. George William Allison made one of his brief, pithy speeches for which he is so well known. James M. Booe outlined the plans that had been set up. John M. Smith announced \$30,000 in advanced gifts to start the big thermometer Harold Stewart had made, and Sara Ewing urged the program be undergirded with prayer at five o'clock every evening when the Church bell would ring, the "Angelus Hour."

Dr. Carl S. Winters of Oak Park, pastor of a great Church, gave the address of the evening and inspired our people with a new sense of the worth of the Church of Christ.

The program closed with a brief talk by Dr. Stone entitled "Kick-Off" to new levels of consecration and thinking.

Solicitations began at once. Campaign headquarters was set up at the Church with Mrs. Harold J. Stewart as full-time secretary. The intensive work was brought to a close with a "Victory Tea" when final reports were made. The "Tea" was a happy time. As reports were coming in, the group joined in singing old hymns. Special numbers were given: a violin solo by Richard S. Orton, an accordion solo by Mrs. John M. Smith and a vocal solo by George A. Newton Jr.

With calls not completed the twelve-foot thermometer registered \$141,000. A few days later it was raised to \$145,000 and enough cash had been received to make a reduction of \$10,000 on the mortgage. By October the amount subscribed had reached \$151,000, with 162 who asked to be called on a little later in the fall.

By June, 1952, sufficient cash had been paid to liquidate the mortgage on the Church and the two manses.



Building Committee, 1951-1955

Front row: George D. Thornton, Harold D. Bishop, Frank Mutz, Lloyd D. Mosiman. Back row: Lymond J. Osting, Irvin W. Collins, Oscar W. Erikson, Dan E. Pierce, Alfred M. Baldwin.

With proper ceremony the mortgage was burned Sunday evening, June 1, in the sanctuary. It was a happy time. Those taking part in the ceremony were the Reverend Emerson Olds Houser, George D. Thornton, L. Russell Newgent, Lloyd B. Mosiman, Emily McAdams, Fred D. Stilz and Dr. Howard W. Stone.

In the meantime, the Planning Committee (now with a few additions, known as the Building Committee) had been working long and late, and Mr. Merritt Harrison, again employed as architect, had been making working drawings according to instructions and in accordance with the original plans.

Formulating plans for doing the most with the least amount of money was not an easy task but the committee kept working. Another expert was called for advice—Mr. Charles A. Betts, adviser architect for the Board of Church Extension, Disciples of Christ. He made a survey on the afternoon of September 10, 1951, and appeared before a meeting of the Session on the same evening. He made suggestions as to the location of the various departments of the Sunday School. He agreed that gymnasiums have become a liability. He observed that no gymnasiums were being built in new Churches. He suggested a plan by which our gymnasium, by making two floors, could be changed

into many classrooms, and made other suggestions referring to partitions, floors and the chancel—all at about half the cost of a new building. His suggestions seemed so practicable that the Session, by a show of hands, unanimously approved them. Many conferences ensued between the members of the Building Committee and the architect. As a result, the Building Committee presented a recommendation at a Congregational Meeting held Wednesday evening, May 19, 1952, which recommendation was accepted.

It was the recommendation of the Building Committee that the architect, Mr. Merritt Harrison, proceed with working drawings for the remodeling of the Church Educational Building, for the construction of new offices in the area between the two buildings and for the sister chapel.

It was also recommended that as soon as the drawings were completed the congregation receive bids for all remodeling and construction work exclusive of the upper part of the sister chapel and that we proceed as soon as possible.

The proposed plans were projected on a screen and explained by Mr. Harrison and Mr. Frank Mutz, chairman of the Building Committee. Harold Bishop also spoke.

Bids were opened in April, 1953, to be due May 6; but the bids received were prohibitive in price. Then began again many hours of consultation that called forth all the thought and skills of the members of the Building Committee and architect. Charles N. Smith, representing the Council of Christian Education, gave valuable aid in working out an estimate of anticipated attendance at Sunday School for which floor space must be provided. Mr. Betts was again consulted, resulting in excellent suggestions.

The Congregational Meeting of January, 1954, accepted the revised plans and directed that bids be opened.

The new plans called for a complete remodeling of the Christian Education Building: beautiful rooms for Junior and Senior High School classes on the ground floor; for Babies, Toddlers and Nursery on the first floor; for the Kindergarten and Primary Departments on the second floor; and for the Junior Department on the third floor. The Scout room on the ground floor was to be enlarged, providing a fine recreation center for youth. Comfortable lounge chairs, ping-pong tables, games, a TV were anticipated developments and a kitchenette also, one of the features of the recreation center.

The Parlor was to be enlarged by including the area of the pastor's study and the Church office, making a spacious room with windows on three sides and with a kitchenette adjacent to it.

The second and third floors were each to have a large room directly above the youth center and parlor, the room on the second floor to be occupied by the Primary assembly and the room on the third floor to be used for activities of the Junior Department assembly.

The former Church kitchen was to become a part of the new dining room and a new modern kitchen provided in the areaway between the Church and the Christian Education Building. Above the kitchen in the areaway were to be the Church offices and an office for the director of Christian Education. The pastor's study was to be above the Church office and the assistant pastor's study in the Session Room.

The sister chapel plans were to be eliminated for the present; the chancel enlarged; a forecourt for the west side of the Church, north of the side entrance, on the street level with two doors entering the cloister on the ground floor; a Scout room on the ground floor, also to be used as a choir room with adequate space for choir robes. In addition to the youth center, the Scout room, Junior Assembly room and enlarged dining room were to be used, if desired, for recreation facilities. Also the parking lot east of the Church could be used for outdoor recreation. It was the opinion of the committee that excellent equipment should be purchased for the various rooms of the Church.

Bids were again opened and were closed late in February.

At a Congregational Meeting at the close of the morning service March 11, 1954, the bids as recommended by the Building Committee were accepted.

The following firms were chosen: William Junglaus Company, general contract; Herman and Schott, heating-ventilating and plumbing contract; Pearson Electric Service, electric contract.

The congregation authorized the Trustees to negotiate a temporary loan, setting the limit at \$100,000 as the mortgage indebtedness.

Construction and remodeling began in March, 1954. Our minister spoke to the congregation in the following words: "As we look forward to the coming months, let us do so in a joyous spirit of thanksgiving to God and in prayer for all those who will be engaged in building and supervision, that everything may be done to God's glory."

Work progressed rapidly and in May the Building Committee members extended an invitation to people to accompany them on any

Sunday morning on a tour of the Educational Building from 10:00 to 11:00 to see the progress on the construction.

The first step in the building project had been accomplished in September, 1952—the conversion of the furnace to oil. A 6,000-gallon oil tank had been sunk in the parking lot and surrounded with gravel and connections made with the newly installed burner.

During the summer of 1954 Church services were held in the Irving Theater. Attendance was excellent.

After being away three months, Sunday, October 3—World-Wide Communion Day—we worshiped in our own Sanctuary. The chancel, front part of nave and aisles were newly carpeted, walls cleaned and painted and all woodwork, including pews, refinished.

It was especially appropriate that we go back “home” on Communion Day—there were three services. Our minister said to us: “As we take the bread and the cup together, let us do so in thanksgiving to God for all his mercies and in a spirit of deep commitment to Him.” The subject of Dr. Stone’s sermon that day was “From Repair to Revival.” II KINGS 22:1-23:30

To keep enthusiasm at white heat, two Loyalty Dinners were held November 16 and 17. All of our members were invited as guests—A to K on Tuesday and L to Z on Wednesday. The speaker was Dr. Charles McMillan Houser, brother of our Mr. Houser. Dr. Houser is one of the leading ministers of the Congregational Church and during seventeen years of service at two Churches had been instrumental in increasing their membership greatly.

The two dinner meetings were held in our enlarged and newly decorated dining room, now called Fellowship Hall, and more than 800 were present the two evenings. Members were conducted on tours of the building.

On February 3 and 4, 1955, a United Christian Education Institute was held in our Church with Presbyterian leaders from all over our Synod and from national headquarters in Philadelphia. There were many expressions of appreciation for the educational facilities of the Irvington Church that “combine functional arrangement and beauty.”

A Rededication Dinner was held Wednesday evening, March 16, with Charles N. Smith presiding chairman.

Members of the Building Committee and other committees were honored.

Building Committee: Frank Mutz, chairman; Harold D. Bishop,

assistant chairman; Oscar W. Erikson, secretary; Lloyd B. Mosiman, George D. Thornton, Lymond J. Osting, Irvin W. Collins, Dan E. Pierce, Alfred M. Baldwin.

A volume of letters of appreciation from members of the congregation was presented to the chairman, Frank Mutz.

A debt of gratitude was expressed to the Decorating Committee. Responsible for purchasing much of the new furniture and equipment, choosing the color scheme throughout the building, and decorating and furnishing our beautiful parlor, they did an outstanding service: John Simpson, chairman; Mrs. Albert J. Haskens, Mrs. James M. Booe.

The committee which planned our modern kitchen must be remembered with deep gratitude, for our dinners and luncheons are legion: Mrs. George G. Fassnacht, chairman; Mr. George G. Fassnacht, Mrs. George A. Newton Jr., Mrs. Joe Byrne.

At the three services, 8:00, 9:00 and 11:00, on Sunday morning, March 20, a total of 900 people came to a rededication service. A litany of dedication had been prepared and Dr. Stone preached on the theme: "Wonders for Tomorrow" (JOSHUA 3:5). The public was invited to an open house in the afternoon, 2:00-5:00. Invitations had gone out to the ministers of Churches of the Church Federation of Indianapolis. Refreshments were served and conducted tours held. About 300 people signed the guest book.

Members of the Open House Committee included: Mrs. Roy A. Geider, chairman; Mrs. Fred Shick, Mrs. Dean Robb, Mrs. Charles Gauding, Mrs. Robert King, Mrs. Albert Haskens, Mrs. O. H. Bakemeier, Mrs. Herman L. Bischof.

While not a part of the building program, improvements on the parking lot have added greatly to its usefulness and appearance. In the spring of 1955 the parking lot was graded, blacktopped and marked. A walk was installed in front of it and easy access made available from the south side.

Even with our added facilities there are special occasions when there must be "overflow" arrangements, such as Easter Sunday and Candlelight Services at Christmastime.

And there was another occasion when Fellowship Hall could not contain the friends that gathered at a dinner meeting June 22, 1955, to honor Dr. Ferguson on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his coming to the Irvington Church as a minister. We called it "Ferguson Night."

Layman Kingsbury presided and a program followed the dinner.

Brief talks were given in tribute to the Fergusons and George A. Newton Jr. sang two vocal solos. The family of children and grandchildren had come for the occasion and were introduced. Two boxes, each containing 200 silver pieces (twenty-five-cent pieces for the twenty-fifth anniversary), were presented to Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson, a gift from the congregation.

On the following Sunday, June 26, the real anniversary day, Dr. Ferguson preached. Subject of sermon: "God's Grace Through the Encircling Years." PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Church Music

"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." I CORINTHIANS 14:15

The Irvington Church has two choirs, volunteers, who cheerfully give of their time and talent in a truly devotional spirit.

The Westminster Fellowship Choir of thirty-five voices provides music for the first morning worship service at 8:45. It participates annually in the Christmas Candlelight Service and makes an annual appearance at the Children's Guardian Home.

It has been the custom since 1950 to award a hymnal to each High School senior in the choir for loyal and faithful service during a period of four years.

Young people who have favored us with solos are Nancy Johns, Elizabeth Geider, Beth Pierce and Janine Crease.

The adult choir is known as the Sanctuary Choir whose members happily give their services. One soloist, a tenor, has been secured as a paid singer for the choir. They sing at the second Sunday morning service at 10:45, singing two anthems. The choir participates in the evening Christmas Candlelight Service and assists in the afternoon program. For a number of years the choir gave a concert on Palm Sunday evening. This was discontinued when it became necessary to have three services on Palm Sunday morning.

Just before the Candlelight Service in 1953, Mrs. Harry A. Ware, organist since 1945, became ill and the summer following resigned. At the September meeting in 1954 the Session accepted her resignation "regretfully" and passed a resolution expressing appreciation for her "Christian ideals" and her "years of faithful, beautiful service." Mrs. John Rucker gave efficient service as substitute until May,

1954. At the invitation of the Music Committee, Mr. Clarence F. Elbert became interim organist and in September was appointed regular organist by the Session.

Mr. Elbert, a banker by profession, is a widely known organist. He has been organist and choirmaster for two other Churches. In 1954 he terminated an 18-year conductorship of the oldest continuously existing male chorus in the United States, the 120-voice Maennerchor. For many years he has been the organist for the Indianapolis Symphony. With Mr. Elbert at the console on Sunday morning it seems natural to lift up one's soul in praise to God.

The choir was given signal honor in 1952. In February of that year a letter was received from the National Council of Churches requesting that a record of our choir be sent in for audition. Our Sanctuary Choir was one of the few of our nation to be chosen to sing on the radio program, "National Vespers," a religious broadcast on which Dr. J. S. Bonnell, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, was the speaker. Recordings of the choir were heard throughout the country over a network of the American Broadcasting Company. It is interesting that in late 1953 the office received a phone call stating that in a letter word had been received from Martin Mueller that he had twice heard the Irvington Presbyterian Church Choir of Indianapolis, Indiana, with Richard S. Orton, director, and Mrs. Harry A. Ware, organist, at Porteyote, Africa. This was a thrilling experience for him.

In 1954 the choir sang on the television program "Chapel Door" when Dr. Stone spoke. A group from the Westminster Choir also sang on this same program when Mr. Luke Walton, their Bible School teacher, spoke.

The Sanctuary Choir appeared again in December when Dr. Stone preached his beautiful Christmas sermon, relating the story of Christmas Eve, reminiscent of his boyhood days in a North Dakota village. During October, 1955, it furnished the music for the new television program, "Church of the Air," with Dr. Stone preaching. Minister and the choir will again be on the program during the month of May, 1956.

Soloists during recent years are: Mr. and Mrs. Arlington Prince, Mr. Hugh Mason, Mr. Max Malvase, Mr. Kenneth Bayless, Mr. Ian Laing, Mrs. Paul Dorsey, Mrs. Kenneth Burkett, Mrs. Paul Korak and Mr. Charles W. Moore.

Good music contributes greatly in a worship service, to stir men's souls to high endeavor. This we have in the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

Geneva Fellowship

A group of young "single" adults met in January, 1951, to study our denominational program called "Geneva Fellowship." After a few preliminary meetings an open party was held Sunday evening, January 28, to which all eligible young adults were invited. At that time definite plans were made for regular weekly meetings to be started immediately, with a program to include study, special speakers, discussion and recreation. Mrs. Robert Aldag served as the adult sponsor. Officers pro tem were: president, Betty Newcomer; secretary-treasurer, Mary Winslow; program chairman, Betty Hoklas.

The organization flourished for some time with an average attendance of about 20. In 1952 eleven members of the group joined the Church. Miss Betty Hoklas went to the school connected with McCormick Seminary to prepare for full-time religious service. As happens with career people, many changed positions and moved from Indianapolis; several went away for advanced study; ten of the number married within a period of five years, which transferred them to other groups. Recently the Geneva Fellowship has been reactivated.

The Mummers Reorganize

When the Mummers disbanded, it was hoped that some day some of the young people would take up the work and carry on the traditions. Such a group was formed under the sponsorship of the Senior-High Westminster Fellowship. On Wednesday night, January 10, 1951, twenty-five young people met and reorganized the Mummers. Mrs. James Loomis, the director of the original Mummers, was chosen sponsor and director. They gave two plays: "The Two Thieves" and "The Rock." Unfortunately for the group, Mrs. Loomis accepted a position as organist and director of the choir at Prentice Presbyterian Church and could not continue as director. No one could be found to fill the place and after a time the group disbanded.

Christian Education

Our Church is well organized for Christian Education. It provides a varied program for children, young people and adults.

All Children's Departments—Toddlers, Nursery, Kindergarten,

Primary and Junior—provide worship, study and activities according to each age level. Does someone ask, “Study for Toddlers and Nursery?” Yes, there is a Presbyterian curriculum for them: attractive pupil picture storybooks and Parent-Teacher manuals entitled “Before They Are Three” and “When They Are Three.” What next? A curriculum for Babies in the Cribbery?

October 1, 1951, saw the start of the second session Sunday School, with a department for two-year-olds, one for three-year-olds and a kindergarten. A crib room was opened for babies under two, supervised by a nurse assisted by volunteers from couples’ clubs—Mariners, Lamplighters, Ancient Mariners. In 1953 a second session Primary Department was added, and on October 2, 1955, a complete second session Sunday School for all ages was in operation for the first time. The enrollment now is 925, plus 100 superintendents, teachers, officers and substitutes, with an average attendance of 645.

During the five-year period, the Church School session time was increased from an hour and fifteen minutes to an hour and a half, with Junior-Hi and High School youth and adults attending the Church service, and then going to classes for a half-hour period immediately following.

The last Sunday of September is designated by General Assembly as Christian Education Sunday. It is Rally Day in the Irvington Presbyterian Church when all classes strive for a 100 percent attendance. Each department has a special Rally Day program in its own room, which includes a promotion ceremony for those who are to go into another department. Graduates of the Primary Department are presented with Bibles at a Sanctuary service.

These from among our many faithful and efficient workers must be mentioned for their many years of service:

Mrs. Robert King has been superintendent of the Junior Department twelve years.

Mrs. Will (Lou) Brown has taught all ages from mothers to tiny tots for so many years she has lost count.

Mrs. O. C. Neier has taught thirty-five years in the Primary Department, and her daughter, Mary Louise, twenty-one years. Both have helped regularly in Daily Vacation Bible School.

The Women’s Association has honored Mrs. Neier and Mrs. John Berry in their “Opportunity Giving” by making them honorary members of our National Board of Christian Education.

Mrs. Elmer J. Schwegmann has taught in the Junior Department fourteen years.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Gooch have given a number of years of teaching in our High School Department and have also served as advisers to Youth Presbytery and Youth Synod.

Gaylord Berry has served as secretary-treasurer for eighteen years. His books are a marvel of neatness and accuracy and he deserves much credit for the many hours he spends in record keeping, making analyses of the attendance and financial standing of the Sunday School.

The Youth Program includes Junior-Hi and High School youth. These groups study the Presbyterian Curriculum Sunday mornings. The Junior-Hi Fellowship also come to the Church on Mondays, 3:30 to 7:30 P.M. In 1953 the group became so large, 65 or 70, that it was divided into two sections—the seventh graders continuing on Monday evenings, and the eighth graders on Sunday afternoons. Both groups offer opportunities for fine Christian fellowship, study, discussion and service projects to the young people of this age. Each year, three months of the seventh grade Fellowship's program includes time spent in the Communicants' Class in preparation for Church membership. About thirty Junior-Highs have united with the Church each year at Eastertime.

The High School Westminster Fellowship meets on Sunday evenings, with a snack supper prepared by the mothers, followed by a program and activities. The group has followed the National Council of Westminster Fellowship's commission plan of organization which included, at first, four areas of concern: Faith, Stewardship, Outreach and Fellowship. Two years ago the National Council of Westminster Fellowship joined with the major denominational youth groups which are affiliated with the National Council of Churches in a unified five-commission plan with these areas: Faith, Outreach, Witness, Fellowship and Citizenship.

Beginning with 1955, five couples have acted as advisers, each couple assisting the youth in their planning and activities in one of these areas.

The young people and their leaders always start off their fall work with a Planning Retreat at some nearby camp. For the past three years these retreats have been held at the Y. M. C. A. Flatrock Camp.

In the Outreach area this year the young people are "staking

claims" for seven projects. "Staking a claim" means contributing \$10 or more to a mission field. Our young people are "staking" seven \$50 "claims": two in Japan, and one in Africa through our Foreign Board of Missions; Ming Zuong House for Chinese-American Children at Oakland, California; "The Princeton Hall," Alaska; work among the American Indians through our National Board of Missions; and support of summer camps and conferences for young people, through our Board of Christian Education.

Our Christian Education activities are financed through the Youth Budget. A Sunday in November is designated as Youth Budget Sunday. During the week previous, each child and youth is sent a card through the mail, a Youth Budget Pledge card, to be brought back the following Sunday and presented in special dedication services in each department. On a "follow-up" Sunday, representatives of Juniors, Junior-Highs and High School-age groups conduct a Youth canvass, calling on those whose cards have not come in. In 1950 this budget was \$3,500 with 380 subscribers, children and youth. This has steadily grown until now the 1956 budget is \$6,400 with 516 subscribers.

The children and young people have also contributed liberally each year through special gifts to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" fund, Christmas offerings of mittens, food, clothing for the needy, the United Nations' Children's Relief Milk Fund, gifts to our own missionaries in Thailand and India and clothing collected for hurricane victims along our Atlantic Coast.

Our Church is well equipped for recreational activities. Many happy hours are spent in the Youth Parlor or Fellowship Hall, playing table games, badminton or folk dancing. Our youth also enjoy haywagon rides and swim parties—roller skating, picnics, attendance at Youth Presbytery Rallies, and visits to other youth groups in Churches over our city and state.

In the summer of 1955, thirty-nine of our young people attended Presbyterian Camps and Conferences provided by the Synod of Indiana.

Youth Week has been observed with proper ceremony since it was instituted in 1944 as the result of the United Christian Youth Movement composed of youth of all denominations. It is an annual week of emphasis upon Youth, the responsibility that Youth has to the Church and the Church for the Youth.

For this event, the Junior-Hi Fellowship and Westminster Fellowship meet in Fellowship Hall the last Sunday evening in January, the beginning of Youth Week, for their annual banquet. It is a gala occasion. Committees work for some time planning the decorations, arranging for the special entertainment and other details. An outstanding speaker gives the address of the evening. This year (1956) the Youth were happy to hear the Reverend Edward C. McCance, our assistant pastor 1944-1946, who did so much for Youth those two years.

The Irvington Church has an outstanding record for the number of young people going into full-time Church vocations. Six from this Church are already serving as ministers, two are in seminary, and two are directors of Christian Education. (Listed in appendix.) During the past five years six more were "taken under care" of Presbytery, one of whom has completed seminary training and is now a commissioned director of Christian Education. At present four other young people seriously are considering going into full-time Church vocation.

The Adult Department of the Sunday School has the following classes: Young Adult Couples, Adult (for men and women), Men's Class.

Adults, on entering the classroom, may accept a cup of coffee or a coke. The members like this informality while listening to a discussion.

Monthly Folk Game Parties are held for adults, who care to attend, the second Saturday evening of each month in Fellowship Hall. The party begins with a pitch-in supper at 6:30, followed by a program at 7:30. Miss Ruth Fee, the leader, has a repertoire of 80 folk games and square dances.

The Presbyterian materials known as Faith and Life Curriculum have been in use in the Church School since first introduced by the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education in 1948, with the exception of some adult classes that use other materials.

During the remodeling the Church School and youth program were carried on in quarters lent by the Irvington Masonic Lodge, and in the dining room under the Sanctuary, where only curtains divided the departments.

All connected with our educational program are to be commended for the splendid way they carried on during this difficult period.

October 24, 1954, was a joyful day—back into our beautiful, re-decorated and refurnished Christian Education Building. On opening day there was a record attendance of 667. We now have one of the best educational buildings in the country. Many have come from other Churches to get ideas, and there are many requests for its use for national, area, synod and local meetings. The Youth Parlor, in the youth division, is a delight to the young people with its lovely furnishings, kitchenette and excellent recreational facilities.

In the fall of 1955, the Council of Christian Education was renamed and reorganized in compliance with the National Board of Christian Education. It became the Committee on Christian Education and was reorganized according to the plan which now makes the local Church "Committee" similar in design and terminology to that of the Presbytery and Synod Committees on Christian Education, with sub-committees for Children's, Youth and Adult work. At least four of the members of the new "Committee" must be ruling elders. The present committee consists of chairman, secretary-treasurer, two members in charge of Children's Work, two of Youth Work, and two Adult. The present chairman is James M. Booe. Former chairmen were Charles N. Smith and Dan E. Pierce.

Our Young People were without a director during the summer of 1950. In July the Reverend Emerson Olds Houser came as our assistant minister. Mrs. Houser took over the work of director of Christian Education temporarily in October and two months later was appointed by the Session our official D.C.E.

Since that time Mrs. Houser has served with graciousness, enthusiasm and efficiency and, with the assistance of a couple of sponsors for each youth group, and faithful and capable officers and teachers in the Sunday School, we think we have a Department of Christian Education second to none in the Synod of Indiana.

Our Daily Vacation Bible School has been held regularly since 1923, with the exception of the summer of 1954 when our Educational Building was being remodeled. The Vacation School begins the first week after the close of the public schools.

In 1953, the new Presbyterian Vacation School materials were used for the first time. These materials were produced by our Board of Christian Education in response to a demand for a summer curriculum based on sound doctrinal and educational principles that would tie into the regular weekly Sunday School.

Church Growth

Church membership continued to grow steadily. The New Life Movement was in full swing, emphasizing evangelism by personal visitation.

On Sunday afternoon, February 19, 1950, the I.C.P.M. (Irvington Chapter of Presbyterian Men) planned a visitation of all members of the congregation.

The men met at the Church at 2:00 and received assignments. They called on members of the congregation for a special period of loyalty and devotion during the Lenten season. Cards were distributed announcing topics of sermons during Lent. Attached to each card was a place on which one could indicate his intentions to attend all services if possible and a place where he could keep a record to be turned in on Easter Sunday. The I.C.P.M. were in this way putting into practice Objective Four of their constitution: "To promote the maximum possible Church attendance."

In January, 1952, a large committee on evangelism was organized with George G. Fassnacht, chairman, and Mrs. Harold J. Stewart, secretary—the purpose of which was to call on prospective members. This committee worked unitedly with the Presbyterian Churches of the state, carrying out the plans of Synod's New Life Committee, of which Dr. Stone was chairman.

In January, 1953, a new impetus was given personal evangelism, resulting from a religious census of Indianapolis in late 1952. Starting Wednesday night, January 7, there were six training periods on consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:30.

All who were willing to call were urged to be present. There was an intensive visiting program at the close of the training period. Callers went out from the Church on Sunday afternoon. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday a light supper was served at the Church at 6:15, followed by visitation from 7:10 to 9:10. Nearly 150 teams participated in the calling.

Sunday afternoon, February 22, about twenty-five of our High School Young People took part in an evangelistic calling campaign, calling on High School students who were unchurched.

That year, 1953, 121 joined our Church during Holy Week. There were three Easter services: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00.

Covering that year, the Church treasurer reported at the annual Congregational Meeting, January 1954, a balance of \$1,000 in the



BESSIE FEE



EVELYN BYRNE

treasury. The Irvington Church had the greatest gain in membership of any Presbyterian Church in the Synod of Indiana.

Other evangelistic visitations followed in succeeding years. One this year was carried out February 5, 6, 7. Calls were made on prospective members by teams, all meeting at the Church Sunday afternoon at 2:00, February 5, for a briefing period and assignment of calls.

Communicants' classes are held for six weeks before every communion when members are received: Dr. Stone conducts the class for youth and Mr. Houser the class for adults.

Beginning January, 1951, the Session directed that *Presbyterian Life* be sent to every home. This was largely an experiment at that time but the importance of having our Church paper in every home grew and in October it was announced that under the "Every Home Plan" our Church would subscribe for *Presbyterian Life* to be sent into every home at \$1.00 a subscription, the Church underwriting the cost and that anyone who so desired might reimburse the treasury to that amount. Individual subscriptions were \$2.50.

On the resignation of Mrs. Ewing, in 1954, Mrs. Joe Byrne was appointed, at first, Church Hostess, but a growing membership made it necessary to have another full-time secretary and she was appointed to that office. Since that time Miss Fee and Mrs. Byrne have worked together in what needs to be done. Both serve far "above and beyond the call of duty."

Under the direction of Mr. Houser a tithing group was formed among adults and the number of tithers has grown from year to year.

In 1952 our Church was chosen by Dr. John Thompson Peters,

secretary of our Church's Department of Stewardship, as a "pilot" Church. This means we were one of thirteen Churches of our denomination to experiment in the field of tithing promotion.

Dr. Peters came to preach to us Sunday, November 6, 1955. He also held conferences with small groups in the Church.

During this seven-year period our membership has increased. As of January 25, 1956, it stands at 2,074, the third largest Church in membership in the Synod of Indiana. The estimate revealed by Dr. Nixon, the expert Church analyst, who made a survey here in 1950, is being realized—we are second in membership in Indianapolis.

The increased attendance from a growing membership and our larger Church facilities made it necessary to increase the Session to twenty-seven, Deacons' Board to thirty members, Trustees to nine and Deaconess to fifteen.

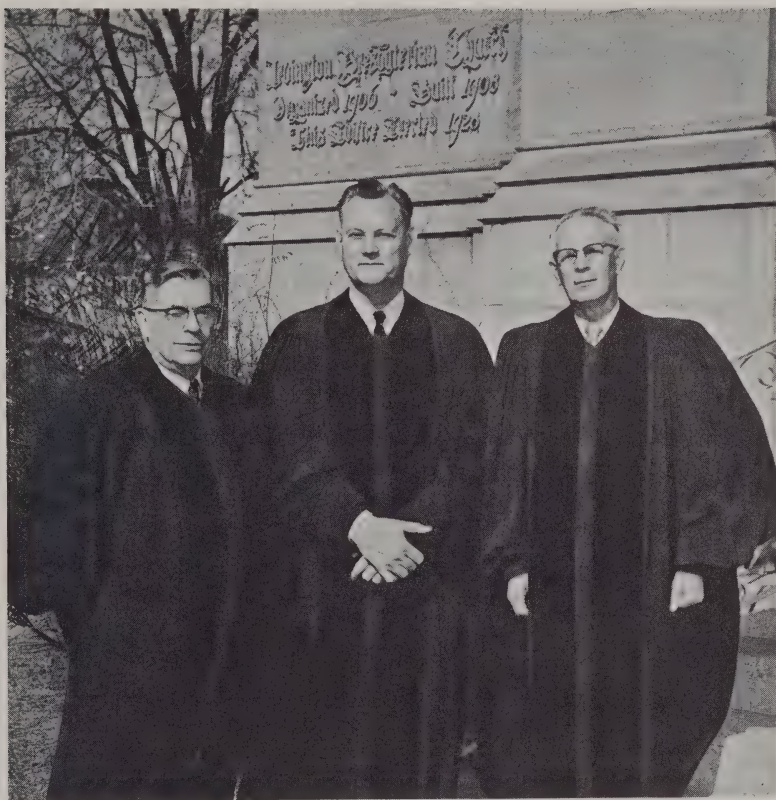
The Sunday School is steadily growing in numbers and that is a sign of a growing Church. In 1955 the total attendance increased over 1954. The growth, as with other departments, is not spasmodic but steady and sure. (Statistics showing growth in appendix). No doubt the Parish Plan is contributing to the growth in membership.

We are fortunate in having four ministers as part of our congregation: Dr. John B. Ferguson, as pastor emeritus; Dr. Charles F. Bernheisel, who was 41 years a missionary in Korea; the Reverend John K. Abernethy, associate secretary of the Department of Evangelism in charge of the Central Area; and Dr. John N. Fox, Synod executive. The families of these ministers are part of our Church. Mrs. Bernheisel was a missionary in Korea 38 years.

Parish Grouping

One of the problems of a large Church is that of keeping in touch with individual members and of assimilating new ones. Early in 1952 began the process of organizing our entire membership into parishes.

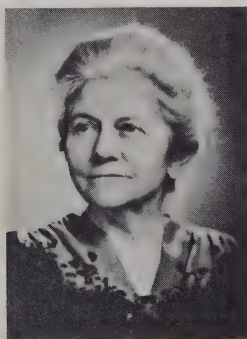
The working out of the group plan was the project of the I.C.P.M. with Mr. Lloyd Mosiman, the president, and Mr. Erle A. Kightlinger, vice-president, in direct charge. An organization was worked out that was said to enlist every man in the Church. At that time the membership was approximately 1,800 Presbyterians. This number was divided into 80 small neighborhood parishes and over each was a parish leader. It was the task of the parish leaders "to look after their little parishes; to become personally acquainted with the people assigned



JOHN B. FERGUSON

HOWARD W. STONE

EMERSON OLDS HOUSER



MARGARET FERGUSON



MARGARET STONE



HELEN HOUSER

to them; to report to the minister cases of sickness and need among the members; to be alert in extending a cordial invitation to their neighbors who had no Church affiliation to worship with us; and to promote projects as they are assigned to the parishes."

In a word, each parish leader was to be a "shepherd" of the small flock assigned to him.

The plan seemed ideal. But there were difficulties, and enthusiasm waned. In order to simplify and revitalize the Parish Plan, Ray Hilgedag presented a plan at a meeting of the Session and three Boards in the latter part of 1953. Resident members were then divided into 70 parishes, grouped alphabetically, and Church officers named as parish leaders.

At present the 84 members of the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Board of Deaconesses and the Board of Trustees are designated as leaders of small parishes.

While no plan has worked perfectly, it is hoped that the Parish Plan will grow in effectiveness, affording a means of fellowship, helping with the assimilation of new members, and giving a close pastoral oversight to all our people, thus extending the influence of the Church.

Avenues of Service

Our Church has a diversified program for children, youth and adults—Sunday and weekly activities—classes, worship, recreation, social and service projects. For children: the Cribbery, Toddlers, Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Cub Scouts. For Young People: Junior-Hi, High School, Westminster Fellowship, Westminster Choir, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts (replacing Sea Scouts). For Adults: Couples' Class, Adult Class for men and women, Men's Class, Philathea Class (monthly luncheon and Bible Study), Wedding Ring, Ancient Mariners, Lamplighters, Mariners, Women's Association, Irvington Chapter of Presbyterian Men, Men's Bowling League.

We cannot refrain from making this comment: To think that our minister, Dr. Stone, before coming to Irvington gained headlines all over the country by advocating the O.E.P.Q.O., which being interpreted means—Organization to encourage people to quit organizations—no officers, no dues, no projects!

It is seldom that a layman has the opportunity to serve as Moderator of Synod. In June, 1952, Elder John Millar Smith was elected

vice-moderator of Indiana Synod. Upon the death of the Moderator a few months later, Elder Smith assumed the duties of that office and conducted them in a statesmanlike manner. Several from our Church were happy to hear him deliver the Moderator's sermon on the afternoon of June 2, 1953.

Our D. P.'s

At the June Session meeting, 1949, a letter was read by our benevolence treasurer, John Smith, making a plea to get more D.P. sponsors in our local Churches. After discussion it was decided that our Church would make application for a D.P. or a D.P. family. Soon thereafter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moor graciously agreed to employ and house a displaced couple, and the Church agreed to assist the Moors in any way possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Janis Tichomirous arrived in Indianapolis on March 12, 1950. They were met at the station by John M. Smith and taken to the Moor home, 6225 East Thompson Road, where Janis was to help with the farm work and Anna with the housework.

The couple had owned a 28-acre farm in Latvia near the Russian border. They had fruit trees, grains, bees, chickens, turkeys, geese, hogs and sheep. They had attended the Orthodox Church in Latvia. When the Germans came in 1940 and the Russians in 1944 and it seemed they must choose between Nazism and Communism they chose to leave their home. They finally arrived at a Displaced Persons' Camp near Munich. This camp was their home until January, 1950, when they left with 1,300 other displaced persons, and arrived in New York on March 11. They attended our Church while here and were graciously received.

After a few months at the Moors, Janis received word from Minneapolis inviting him to come there, where it was thought he could get a job in a bakery. He had worked in a bakery in Latvia and longed to go to Minneapolis but thought he was not free to leave here. When told that this was a "free country" and that he could move about at will he was overjoyed.

Mr. Smith received a letter from the couple in May, 1955, expressing appreciation for the kindness and help given them. Janis has been able to earn enough to make a payment on a home and will eventually pay off the mortgage. He closed his letter with these words: "So little by little we build our lives in God blessed America."

Our hearts were strangely warmed by such an expression of gratitude and the knowledge that the Church had helped.

Memorial Gifts—1954-56

During the Building Campaign for the remodeling of the Christian Education Building and the refurnishing of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, a Memorial Gifts Committee was constituted to receive special gifts. These gifts were of three types, either in memory of someone departed, in honor of someone living, or in gratitude for the blessings of the Lord.

Much of the furnishing in the Church, Parlor, the Youth Parlor and the Sunday School departmental rooms was consecrated in this manner. More than fifty gifts amounting to nearly \$17,000 were given with special designations. While these represent less than one-tenth of the subscriptions to the program, each is recorded as desired in the Golden Book of Memories, the Book of Gifts, or the Memorial Plaque of Bequests.

A Memorial Gifts Committee was permanently authorized by the Congregational Meeting in January, 1955, to receive and administer future gifts to the Irvington Presbyterian Church. The pastor acts as moderator of six members serving a term of three years each.

There are other gifts that may be classed as Labors of Love. We shall name a few of the outstanding ones:

Mr. J. Franklin Pitts serves the Church four days a week.

Mr. Lymond Osting, house chairman for six years, is now keeping mechanical equipment in order.

Mr. James Fee every week for years gathered flowers and arranged them artistically in the urns and at the foot of the cross.

Mrs. J. R. H. Moore and Mrs. Sam Campbell have given outstanding service in calling on strangers in the community.

Miss Edna Giffin gives hours to keeping records.

Mrs. Robert (Mary McPheeters) Moor from her wheel chair, remembering the ill and those in sorrow, sends out hundreds of cards annually in the name of the Women's Association.

Mrs. Harold Bishop is responsible for serving refreshments at wedding receptions.

Members of our Circles who serve in the kitchen under the leadership of Mrs. C. T. Washburn, a most efficient worker.

To this list may be added the 100 Sunday School teachers, officers

and heads of departments, committee and club members, directors of the budget, workers in specialized fields such as that of audio-visuals, leaders of Scouts. We are lost in a maze when we try to think of all those who are giving of themselves in a labor of love.

Our Outreach

Should more of our benevolence money be designated for special work? This question had been discussed in Session meetings at various times. Investigation was made as to what could be done with the contribution we had to offer. Subsequently, the Clerk of the Session, Miss Emily McAdams, was authorized by the Session to write to Miss Ruth Elliott, secretary of Special Work of our Board of Foreign Missions, guaranteeing \$800 annually toward the support of Miss Sarah E. Wylie, Siam, and \$200 for her work budget, totaling \$1,000; also guaranteeing \$1,000 annually toward the support of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Ramer, India.

The official certificates were received with these words: "This is to certify that Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, enters into supporting relationship with Sarah E. Wylie, Siam, ambassador of Christ, and representative of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. By the blessing of God, may this partnership bear fruit in the lives of the members of this Church and in the advance of the Christian Gospel throughout the world." The official seal of the Foreign Board was affixed bearing the words "Preach the Gospel to every creature." Signed, "For the Church, Ruth Elliott, Board of Foreign Missions. Date, February 28, 1952."

The other certificate bore the name of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramer, India. At this time another \$1,000 was designated to be used in helping work all over the world.

Miss Wylie was not "new" to our Church at this time. After the close of World War II the Session had become interested in securing someone on the foreign field as our very own representative, and Miss Wylie was chosen.

She was born in China and knew the language. Her father, J. Herman Wylie, was a doctor of wide experience there. Miss Wylie had been assigned to the Foreign field by our Board in 1943 but her support had not been completely taken. So in answer to our request she was assigned to our Church.

War was on in the East and Miss Wylie could not be on the field



Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Ramer and their children, Robbie and Lyn, who carry on our mission work at the Sangli Industrial School in India

but was taking work in a Western University. We guaranteed \$500 toward her support there and our other contribution went into the general fund. When conditions on the foreign field improved she was assigned to Siam. Since that time we have been paying \$1,000 annually toward her support.

When the Fergusons were in Thailand in 1951 they saw Miss Wylie at work in two Chinese Churches and studying Siamese. Dr. Ferguson speaks of her as "one of the most useful and gracious of our young missionaries."

She came to the United States on furlough in 1952, taking additional work in Bible in New York. She spent a few days with us and was given a reception in the Church Parlor on a Sunday afternoon. She joined our Church by letter June 29, 1952. So now she is our very own representative in Thailand.

It would seem that the events and the experiences of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Ramer (they say they will feel more a part of the family if we call them Bob and Nancy) have all worked together to prepare them to be ambassadors for Christ.

While in college it was necessary for Bob to "earn his way" by doing various jobs. He was graduated from the Colorado School of Mines as a metallurgical engineer. He had two years service in the Navy, taking charge of religious services on shipboard. Later, while in San Francisco Theological Seminary, he applied for missionary

work in India. His summer vacation was spent as instructor in surveying and mechanics in the School of Mines. In 1947-1948 he worked with American-born Japanese boys in California. He was appointed May 18, 1948, to the West India Mission and taught in the Boys' Industrial School, Sangli. The boys are learning the skills to fit them for a higher standard of living and groups of them are going out into the streets on Sunday morning gathering a Bible Class from non-Christian groups. Some of these boys will become Christian lay leaders among the craftsmen of the villages and cities.

In addition to his work as teacher, Bob toured the villages with an audio-visual truck that attracted great crowds who took great interest in the story of Christ and God's plan of salvation. How thrilling to have a share in the work of the Sangli Industrial School!

Nancy has a deeply religious Scots background. She was graduated from High School in Detroit and then entered for training in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. She later received diplomas on the completion of courses as a nursing sister, as a children's nurse, a maternity nurse and district nurse. She also acquired much experience as a Church nurse and a parish visitor. In 1948 she applied to the Church of Scotland for foreign missionary service and went for special training to St. Colm's Women's Missionary College in Edinburgh. She was appointed to St. Margaret's Hospital in Poona, India. After her marriage to Bob Ramer she was changed to the West India Mission in 1950. She is now the moving spirit of the Health Center in an extremely poor area where there are more than 200 children. Such work as done by the Ramers is demonstrating the teachings of Jesus, "He came to give abundant life." It is fine to feel we have a part.

The Ramers, on furlough, arrived in New York, August 25, 1953. Bob was to have a year's study at San Anselmo. They visited their supporting Churches on their way across the country, stopping with us September 4-7. Bob and Nancy both spoke at the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock worship services Sunday morning. They also appeared in various Sunday School departments from 10:00 to 10:30, and spoke on Sunday evening, following a dinner meeting. At that meeting the president of Geneva Fellowship asked Nancy what their group could do to help. Nancy replied that there was great need for Pabulum for babies. It is reported that sometime later a childless woman elder asked that president, "Has the Geneva Fellowship done anything

about sending Pabst to India?" Evidently that elder didn't know liquor any better than she knew baby food. It is of interest to know that \$90 worth of Pablum was sent to Sangli, the gift of the Wedding Ring, and the Primary, Junior and Junior-Hi departments of our Sunday School.

The Ramers stayed at the home of Miss Emily McAdams while here. They enjoyed the hospitality of several, being entertained at luncheons and dinners. A small "get-acquainted" dinner party was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aldag. The Ramers went away feeling they were a part of our Church family.

Bob completed his work at San Anselmo and was ordained a minister in his home Church, Denver, Colorado, in the summer of 1953. On their return trip to New York they, with their two children Robbie and Lyn, again visited us, spending a week end with Miss Emily McAdams and meeting with various groups on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith kept "open house" in their honor on Sunday afternoon and, as before, other homes entertained them to lunch or dinner.

After spending a few months in Scotland, Bob studying electrical work, they returned to Sangli where Bob is now principal of the Industrial School for Boys and Nancy resumed her work in the Health Center. Interesting letters give encouraging reports of their work.

Miss Emilie Knipe, a member of our Church, and formerly a nurse at Ganada Mission Hospital, received a National Missions appointment to Menaul School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, starting January 15, 1954. Miss Knipe had been taken under the care of the Indianapolis Presbytery, December 14, 1953, after being recommended by our Session.

She went to Menaul as school nurse, dealing with health problems of students fourteen to twenty years of age. She also taught and during the summer assisted at camp conferences.

She remained at Menaul about a year and at present is teaching surgical nursing at General Hospital, Indianapolis.

There are ways of "outreach" other than under the appointment of one of our Boards. Donald Beam, one of our "boys" in Korea in service, wrote, "Marines here have established an orphanage. We have bought them a few buildings and some land plus many gifts of clothing and food. The weekly collection is for their benefit. We

feel we want to leave something here to be remembered by, not merely as strangers in a strange land." Captain Donald Beam was killed in a plane accident in 1952.

Through our Church benevolence budget, youth budget and budget of the Women's Association, we contributed in 1955 over \$23,700 (this is more than the total receipts for all purposes in 1944—\$23,617) to our four Boards, I. U. Westminster Foundation, Hanover College, Board of Weekday Religious Education, Church Federation, One Great Hour of Sharing, Television Church Service, Community Centers, Leper Fund, Goodwill Industries, Wheeler Mission, Mission Hospital, Migrant Fund and other causes as they arose.

We gave a "helping hand" to Cuba this year in lending Dr. Stone to them for a week. The Commission on Evangelism of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., met in Cuba in January. Dr. Stone, a member of the Commission, took part in a preaching mission which started with a retreat in Havana, January 9. Our Church contributed to the financial support of the mission and were grateful that our minister could be of service to the Cuban Church. After coming home he shared his experiences with us on a Sunday morning and at two family night dinners, showing slides.

We lend a helping hand to unfortunate ones in our community, through the Deacons' Family Service Fund, created in 1950. James Zoercher was principally responsible for its organization and was chairman of the committee for receiving and dispensing the fund.

The fund was created to receive memorial and honorary gifts to be used for those in need, on the approval of a committee appointed by the President of the Board of Deacons. The chairman is trustee of the fund. The receipts and disbursements are known only by the members of the committee. After being audited by the committee, the records are destroyed, only a summary of receipts and expenditures are passed on to the succeeding chairman. Families and individuals have been helped financially during illness, and a wheel chair, hospital bed, etc., are lent to those in need. These articles are in use most of the time.

We cannot estimate the number of people nor the places that may have been reached by TV Church, October 9, 16, 23 and 30, with Dr. Stone preaching, our Chancel Choir singing under the direction of Richard Orton, and with Clarence Elbert at the organ.

The Irvington Presbyterian Church has a far-reaching program,



Irvington Church shared its services with a TV audience during October, 1955

ministering to our home Church, our community, our state, our country and the world "to the uttermost parts."

The Church, of which our Irvington Presbyterian Church is a part, is the most needed institution in the world today. In a troubled and chaotic world, the Church is the answer to its greatest need. In it, there is love and truth, inspiration and instruction, joy and peace, help and strength. In it there is promise for tomorrow. (Adapted)

We of the Irvington Presbyterian Church are mindful of our inspiring heritage. This narrative would be incomplete without a tribute to the men and women and children, many of whom have not been named within these pages, and are now of the Church Triumphant, who through the years contributed to the growth of our Church, serving faithfully and well.

Like the writer of Hebrews 11, we too recall our heroes of faith, exclaiming with him: "Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1 and 2, R.V.

CHAPTER XII

Charter Members Speaking

Charter Members were asked to relate some incident or experience of the early days. Two of that number have since joined the "Church Triumphant": Mrs. Alta Stewart and Edgar A. Perkins Sr.

A Charter Member Looks Back

MRS. ALTA STEWART, OXFORD, OHIO

Being a charter member of the Irvington Presbyterian I can look back through the years to the time in June, 1906, when a small group of high-minded and warm-hearted people banded together under the name Presbyterian and met in the George W. Julian school at Ritter and Washington Streets. These people met during the year. They held their Church socials in the school yard in the summers. Later the Church members held services in the Irvington halls during the winters. When the weather became hot, the Presbyterians met in a large tent pitched near the site of the present Church.

It wasn't the physical beauty of the spacious school auditorium, the halls or the uniqueness of the tent which held the group together but faith in Christian fellowship. It has been said: "An institution is but the lengthened shadow of one man"—so it was with the beginnings of the present Church. It is today the lengthened shadow of the hopes and ideals of each of the little Christian group.

The growth of the Church membership was a steady process, slowly expanding, outgrowing the capacity of the Church which then when completed seemed adequate. The Presbyterians outgrew two Churches. Each Church when finished stood as an expression of the beauty of a House of God. The members were fortunate to have the leadership of such pastors as Jonathan C. Day, the Reverend John Martin, Dr. Allison and Dr. Ferguson.

Today the handsome edifice built by its members is larger and far more beautiful and imposing, possessing the symbols of the Christian Faith. Within the chancel is the gold cross at the altar, above is the everlasting light, the symbol of the light of the world, the organ and choir-loft for worshipful music, the lectern and pulpit for the reading and preaching of the gospel. Just below is the well proportioned baptismal font for the

baptising ceremony—the act of which remits all sin. All these Christian symbols of worship are the expression of the best the faithful followers of the Church can give.

It stands today as a handsome edifice, with possibilities of greater growth, a monument to the loyal members of the past and a heritage for the present and future members who will carry on ever forward the Christian work under the leadership of Dr. Stone.

“My House shall be called a House of Prayer for all Peoples”

—ISAIAH 56:7

MR. EDGAR A. PERKINS SR. remembers this incident

The Martins had a dog named Toby. Toby was usually kept in captivity Sunday mornings, but one Sunday he got loose and canine fidelity led him to follow his master to Church. The ushers would have put him out had not Mr. Martin said pleadingly, “Toby is a friend of mine. Don’t put him out.” So Toby remained and, lulled by his master’s voice, joined the nappers.

NED PERKINS recalls two incidents

Well do I remember that memorable Sunday when Mother saw to it that I was well scrubbed, shoes shined, my “Sunday clothes” on, hair neatly combed, and with the rest of the family went to Church, as I was to be baptised that day and also accepted as a member of the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

Having been accepted as a member of the Church I forthwith joined a Sunday School class taught by Herman E. Martens. Mr. Martens, who lived at the southeast corner of Washington and Bolton, must have been an understanding man, as well as one genuinely interested in the welfare of the youth and the advancement of the Church.

I am constantly reminded of those early days because of an item that is on my desk. When Mr. Martens took over the class as teacher he told his young hopefuls that to those who had perfect attendance records and made regular contributions to the collection he would present a book of their choosing or a Bible. I chose a Bible. I would like to say that I have read this Bible through several times, but I have not. However, I have used it through the years and, although I have received others, this is my cherished possession. The day I received it, or the day following, I proudly showed it to Mrs. Horrall and Miss McLaughlin, neighbors, and after properly exclaiming over it one of them opened it and marked Exodus xx, 12, placing the purple string marker on that page. The string is faded, the Bible shows the ravages of time, but the marker still remains where my friends placed it. And on the fly leaf I read the inscription that takes me back over the years and awakens thoughts of wonderful days and wonderful friends: “Pre-

sented to Ned Perkins for regular attendance. Aug. 5/06. Herman E. Martens, Teacher, Irvington Bible School.”

The old brick Church housed the first recreation room for boys in an east-side Church. Elmer Martin, who had a boys' club composed mainly of his Sunday School class, was able to talk “the powers that be” into allowing a room of that sort in the basement. He had an argument, but finally won. He even had a bowling alley, a mechanical marvel of its age: pins attached to a rod and duck ball size balls were used. After three balls were thrown, the pins were set up by pulling a lever. Several of the older boys, and some of these were not members of our Sunday School, decided that our bowling alley was not for them; they wanted to roll something else: little white cubes with black markings. Of course, they did not attempt this athletic contest when Elmer or any of the other higher-ups were around. In fact, the only time they enjoyed this game was when no one was around. But one day they grew careless. Jack Day (it's hard to say Reverend) was one who was never still, always on the move, and so it was that one day he happened to be passing the Church and noticed a basement window was open. We have never learned whether Jack was just naturally suspicious or whether he actually thought someone was in there. However, he peeked in, and what he saw induced him into quick action. Those who remember him recall that he was an athletic type. From that day on, the members of that particular group had to look elsewhere for their “athletic contests,” and also had to purchase new equipment as Jack appropriated the little white cubes.

“Faith of our fathers, holy faith”

KATHERINE PRICE SEBASTIAN (MRS. LEWIS B.)

The Faith of my Mother led me to join her as a Charter Member in a newly organized Church. The Faith of Dr. O'dell, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, led us to see the need for the Church. The Faith of the Reverend Mr. Jonathan C. Day led us and inspired us to carry on as he related experiences in Kentucky and hardships endured to obtain the education needed to become a Minister of the Gospel. The Faith of Miss Florence Eva Dillan who led a group of young women to place the Church first in their lives. For this wonderful leadership many of us will always be grateful. Her Bible teaching was excellent and she taught by example that we should be helpful in the Church wherever needed—Christian Endeavor, helping in the choir, visiting the sick, buying a “share” or selling a “share” for new Church building, helping with suppers and parties, to enjoy a happy Christian Fellowship together. It is with a feeling of nostalgia, but a feeling of pride too, that I recall the small nucleus in the school building—the acorn from which has grown the sturdy oak—the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

LOUIS RICHARDSON

It was the summer of 1907. The building of the new Church was under way. The excavation for the basement was completed, the wooden forms for the foundation were in place and ready to be filled with concrete. There was no ready-mixed concrete service in those days. Concrete was made the hard way. A strong back and a willingness to work were the only requirements—wheelbarrows and shovels were furnished by the contractor. And, I was sixteen years old.

Filling the forms with concrete began early in the morning, for the work must be completed by evening if the foundation was to be monolithic. All through the day we raced against time, shoveling, mixing, wheeling—shoveling, mixing, wheeling. The forms filled steadily. Things were going nicely. By mid afternoon, the workmen sensed the project could be completed by “quitting-time”—if all went well. Tired limbs and aching backs responded with renewed vigor to bring the task to a quick conclusion. And then it happened. Crack, crack, crack - - - swoosh. A section of the forms gave way, and a heavy mass of fresh concrete gushed into the basement. There was no time to lose. An inclined runway was hastily thrown up, and weary bodies began doggedly wheeling the concrete up the long runway and pouring it into other forms. And then, along came Jonathan C. Day. Jonathan C. Day was the minister of the Church. He was born and reared in the hills of Kentucky. He was tall, sinewy and of fair complexion. A merry twinkle in his light blue eyes complemented a flashing smile. That day, he was moving from the “Manse,” a forlorn incommensurable double dwelling on University Avenue, to new and modern quarters on North Irvington Avenue. He was dressed in faded blue cotton work clothes, wore a broad-brimmed straw hat, and carried a well-filled textile bag on his back. There were no automobiles to facilitate transportation in those days and buggies were few. Jonathan Day, characteristic of the custom of his native hills, was ‘totin’ a few things to his new home in a ‘poke.’

At a glance, Reverend Day saw the predicament of the weary workmen with the wheelbarrows. He caught up a long iron bar with a loop on one end and a hook on the other, raced down the runway, hooked the rod onto a wheelbarrow, turned and raced back up the runway, pulling the wheelbarrow as he went, while the man at the handles pushed. Furiously he worked the rest of the day lightening the loads of weary men. When the crisis was past, he shouldered his bag and said, “Well, I reckon I better be gittin’ down the road with my chickens.” He had left home carrying six plump young fries in the bag. When he arrived at his destination the fries were dead. They had suffocated while he gave a helping hand to weary men and a boy. And how that man loved fried chicken.

*Excerpts from a letter written by FRED B. ROPKEY,
Secretary of the first Board of Trustees—February 24, 1919*

Referring to meetings in the tent: "What a stimulus Day's preaching was to Sylvester Johnson's hens for laying eggs. Jim (Kingsbury), this certainly does bring back memories. I can see old friend Thormeyer sitting in the center section of the Church to one side, my mother on the east side and your family just in front of us, while Elder James G. Kingsbury was on the north side of the Church, Sam and Mrs. Potter with their music in the choir—it all seems like a dream. I shall always maintain there is no place as beautiful as Irvington and nowhere else will one meet the good fellowship to be found there."

Pleasant Memories
EDITH OLSEN LAWSON

I never bake an apple pie that it doesn't remind me of our first pastor, Dr. Jonathan Day; how he loved my mother's apple pie! Some of my fondest memories of our early Church go back to the earliest days and the days that Dr. Day spent in our home. At the time he was chosen to be our first minister, he was still studying at McCormick and had not been ordained, so of course he would only be in Irvington over the week ends. The question arose just where will he stay. Nothing could have been more natural than for my own dear mother to open our home to him. Our house was big and mother, the short time she had known him, had grown to admire his deep understanding of people, his simplicity of faith and his abounding joy of just living. She felt it a great honor to have Dr. Day share our home.

I'll never forget the meals we shared, the beautiful prayers our family loved so much or the way our dear friend and pastor would lift his head and, with a twinkle in his eye, ask, "Apple pie tonight?"

From the Viewpoint of the Choir-Loft
MARIE H. STEWART (NOW OF OXFORD, OHIO)

If this incident had been timed for a TV skit it could not have been better than it was on the summer Sunday morning in the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

In relating it I feel almost like saying: Everyone in his place—pastor, Reverend John Martin, choir members, organist, usher Thomas Kaylor advancing with a Church member, lights, curtain, the Reverend Mr. Martin's voice. It is a TAKE!

Action: Mr. Thomas Kaylor was about to seat the Church member. He forgot the long low step connecting the Sunday School room with the main room of the Church. He struck this just as Rev. Martin was reading: "And he fell on his face." Mr. Kaylor with all the dignity he possessed

made a grand stage fall. His glasses went in one direction and he in another. He was not hurt; therefore it was very funny. We in the choir were shaken with suppressed laughter. I remember Mr. Davenport leaning his head upon his song book and shaking. Reverend Martin proceeded as though nothing had happened, and Thomas Kaylor picked himself up, seated his friend, adjusted himself and walked sedately to the rear of the Church.

An Embarrassing Experience

MAYME POTTER FERGUSON (MRS. HARVEY)

In the early days the Church depended much on the Potters for music. Mother played the little reed organ and the piano, and sang. Father sang and brother Arthur both played and sang. Being a Potter, I was supposed to have musical talent. So when I was a mere teen-ager I was invited to sing at a Sunday morning service. I hesitated but brother Arthur encouraged me by saying: "There won't be many there." He was right. The day was rainy and only a few rows of chairs were occupied. Brother played the piano and he and I sang a duet. I can see Elder Kingsbury (Layman's grandfather) now, leaning forward with his hand behind his ear. He told me afterwards he could scarcely hear me. That was my first and last public appearance as a vocalist.

Where There's a Will There is a Way

LAYMAN KINGSBURY

Four Trustees of the Irvington Presbyterian Church, back in 1909, canvassed the banks of the city seeking a loan of \$500.00, but without success. The little Red Brick Church, which graced the site of our present magnificent edifice, had just been completed and funds were desperately needed to meet an emergency.

Far from being discouraged, the foursome, composed of George Thor-meyer, Fred Ropkey, John Friday and James L. Kingsbury, refused to take no for an answer.

It became known that a roadhouse on the outskirts of Irvington occasionally loaned money on good security, so the quartette of temperate Trustees sought the tavern owner and presented their case. The proprietress, a Mrs. Mozzuchelli, without hesitation said, "I shall be glad to loan you the money because I have always wanted to do something for a Church."

Later one of the Trustees in speaking before the congregation made mention of the incident with the following comment: "I fear that some of the brethren are shocked to learn that the Church would accept money from a dive. Perhaps they consider this the filthiest kind of filthy lucre, tarnished and black, but let me assure you, my dear brothers and sisters, that when we paid it back with interest, it was as white as the driven snow."

Our First Church Home

LAYMAN KINGSBURY

There was no fanfare of trumpets when we pitched our Church tent on our very own plot of ground, on the spot marked by the north wall of our present magnificent structure, but there was an unmistakable atmosphere of religious fervor that made us feel that God approved and was close at hand. To the writer, the dedication of our Church tent was an unforgettable event.

Near by on the other corner of the Church lot there was a hum of activity as the Little Red Brick Church, which was to become our permanent home, took shape and form. Much as a shepherd watching his flock, Trustee Thomas M. Richardson, father of Louis M. Richardson, a present Session member, supervised the erection of the little Church. It may well be said that each brick or joist or rafter was put in place with loving care under the guidance of this devoted servant.

As a boy it was my privilege to act as first custodian of the Church tent, where it was my pleasure to fill and polish three large brass coal oil lamps. Each lamp had a huge silvered reflector shaped like a medium-sized umbrella, which, when hoisted by a rope and pulley to the very top of the tent, diffused the light and cast a warm mellow glow over every evening service.

It was my good fortune to purchase one of these lamps from the Trustees when we moved into the Red Brick Church and which for years graced the center table at home and was later converted into an electric lamp and now occupies a place of honor in our living room. To me this treasured antique is symbolic of the life of Christ, which continues to glow and never dies.

Looking Backward

MERRILL J. WOODS

Looking backward fifty years is a bit difficult as I happened to be a youngster around eleven when the Irvington Presbyterian Church was started.

There are two highlights that still bring back very pleasant memories. The first one was Herman Martens' Sunday School Class of some ten or twelve boys. We met in one corner of the big tent where we held Sunday School, and the important part was the high regard each boy had for Mr. Martens. Most of these lads are far away today. Some living, some who have passed on, but I am sure those still living look back with high regard for their old Sunday School teacher.

The other highlight comes along a couple of years later when most of the same group became members of Christian Endeavor. The song fests that were held each Sunday evening made a lasting impression on all of us.

Even in those days there was a warm friendly spirit in Irvington Presbyterian Church. I believe this has continued on through the years.



*Six of the nine living continuous charter members—April 29, 1956 • Front row, left to right: MRS. EARL LAWSON, THOMAS H. KAYLOR, MRS. HARVEY FERGUSON
Back row: LOUIS M. RICHARDSON, EDGAR A. PERKINS, JR., MERRILL J. WOODS*

GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

1906	Charter	1936 March	815
	Members	1941 March	1085
1914	326	1946 March	1298
1917	372	1949 March	1624
1919	376	1951 December	1791
1921	413	1952 December	1843
1924	512	1953 December	1937
1927 March	687	1954 December	1953
1930 March	723	1955 December	2074

It is interesting to note how our Church attendance increased after two Sunday morning services were inaugurated in 1948.

1947	18,447	1952	33,479
1948	28,018	1953	34,387
1950	32,884	1954	35,670
1951	31,370	1955	38,258

The attendance during the first months of 1956 would indicate we will reach 40,000 by the end of the year.

The Church property at present, 1956—the Church, two manses (776 North Audubon Road and 5835 East Michigan Street), a double in Irving Court, and two parking lots (one east of the Church and one on South Audubon Road) are valued at more than one-half million dollars.

Appendix

The Church has been served by the following ministers:

CHARLES G. STERLING, October, 1906, to January, 1907.

JONATHAN C. DAY, January, 1907, to September, 1910.

JOHN S. MARTIN, October, 1910, to September, 1917.

LOUDAN A. HARRIMAN, October, 1917, to July, 1919.

GEORGE W. ALLISON, October, 1919, to February, 1930.

JOHN B. FERGUSON, July, 1930, to July, 1949.

EDWARD C. McCANCE, Assistant, June, 1944, to May, 1946.

HOWARD W. STONE, May, 1949, to — —

EMERSON OLDS HOUSER, Assistant, August, 1950, to — —

JOHN B. FERGUSON, Pastor Emeritus, July, 1949, to — —

Six of our young men have gone into the ministry and two are in Seminary:

William McEwen	Alan Gripe	Ross Gooch (McCormick)
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Paul Hostetter	David Cull	Carl Geider (Princeton)
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Edward Collier	Thomas H. Johns	
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Three members are in full-time Christian Education work: Mary Louise Ellis (now Mrs. Lee C. Ellenberger); Nancy Johns (now Mrs. William Smart) with Board of Foreign Missions; Elizabeth Hoklas.

CHURCH OFFICERS

The organization of the Irvington Presbyterian Church in 1906 was begun with fifteen Church officers. Five men were elected by the charter members to serve on each of three boards: The Session, the Deacons, the Trustees. Each officer served for a term of three years. During the first twenty-five years of the Church organization, sixty-six men had served on the boards: twenty-three Elders, thirty Deacons and thirteen Trustees. In the early '30s, much discussion was held about the continuity of terms of office. The size of each Board was increased as the membership grew. In 1934 the congregation voted to limit the terms of office of any member to two suc-

cessive terms of three years, to be followed by at least one sabbatical year of ineligibility. Later this program was further limited so that no officer was eligible for re-election on the same or another board without one year of inactivity.

In 1946, the congregation authorized a new women's group of officers to be called the Deaconess Board. This group of women prepared Communion elements, arranged for delivery of flowers to the sick, and assisted in many other things that women could do so much more capably than men.

The group of ruling Elders has grown from five to twenty-seven; the Deacons, from five to thirty; the Trustees, from five to twelve; and the Deaconesses from the original nine to fifteen. All this in the first fifty years.

The number of Church officers in the first twenty-five years was sixty-six, as stated above. With the rotation plan, 301 more have been elected in the last twenty-five years, making a total of 367 Church officers in fifty years. Only sixty-eight have served on two Boards, and only five have served on three Boards. These five, who have served as Deacon, Trustee and Elder, and are still in the Church: Thomas H. Kaylor, George D. Thornton, James H. Fee, Frank M. Mutz and Louis M. Richardson.

Another evidence of the widespread activity in Church responsibility is that one in ten of the total membership of 2,074 is or has been a Church officer. There have been 294 different members (48 women and 246 men) on the boards. Only 90 have moved away or have died, leaving 204 members of the Church today—experienced officers. This reserve of experience is a bulwark for current expansion and effective leadership. The recognition of the leadership of women by the congregation has been a forward step in the work of our Church. Women have served on the Session since 1933 and, of course, make up the Deaconess Board in its entirety.

THE SESSION • 1906-1956

Officers Listed in Order of Election

Butler, Amos W.
 Babcock, Guilford C.
 Griswold, L. Herbert
 Kingsbury, James G.
 Orbison, Charles J.
 Aten, C. Perry
 Lupton, Marshall D.
 Dirks, Louis H.
 Ryan, Frank A.
 Kingsbury, James L.
 Smith, Frank H.
 Brown, John A.
 Thom, William
 Wagoner, Charles E.
 Whitham, D. H.
 Zoercher, Philip
 Gelston, Henry Mills
 McClintock, John R.
 Stilz, Fred D.
 Newton, George A.
 Everroad, B. F.
 McPheeters, Thaddeus H.
 Smith, Charles N.
 Tarpenning, Charles F.
 Wagoner, Walter E.
 Cornwell, T. J.
 Kramer, Daniel E.
 McAdams, Miss Emily
 Stone, Carl E.
 Southard, Wallace W.
 Perkins, Edgar A. Sr.
 Washburn, C. T.
 Milligan, J. S.
 Craig, Seward S.
 Moffat, John H.

Kaylor, Thomas H.
 Aldag, Robert
 Meek, Homer C.
 VanArsdale, Fred
 Thornton, George D.
 Fee, James H.
 Loomis, James R.
 Greiner, Louis G.
 Stewart, Harold J.
 Flick, O. S.
 Bayless, Arthur N.
 Bruck, Edward G.
 Kellogg, Edward W.
 Reese, Max J.
 Lupton, Mrs. M. D.
 Gallup, Mrs. Marian
 Ewing, Miss Sara C.
 Fields, Maurice D.
 Newcomer, Frank
 Taggart, Walter
 VanRee, George
 Arbuckle, William S.
 Ewing, Lewis H.
 VanArendonk, A. C.
 Baer, Dean M.
 Besley, Erle
 Kingsbury, Layman D.
 Byrne, Joe
 Pierce, Dan E.
 Smith, John M.
 Bishop, Harold D.
 Donnell, Dr. C. E.
 Ferguson, Dr. James W.
 Ware, Dr. Harry A.
 Gooch, Darrell

Mutz, Frank M.
 Booe, James M.
 Fassnacht, George G.
 Wegener, Miss Catherine
 Byrne, Mrs. Joe
 Perkins, Edgar A. Jr.
 Zoercher, James M.
 Bakemeier, Dr. O. H.
 Miller, Herschel S.
 Mutz, Harold W.
 Newgent, L. Russell
 Ragsdale, John Paul
 Lawrence, Richard E.
 McCoy, Miss Mary Anne
 Gripe, Dr. O. H.
 Beavers, Dr. Thomas H.
 Campbell, Mrs. Sam G.
 Dirks, Edward F.
 Johns, Ralph H.
 Richardson, Louis M.
 Ritter, George H.
 St. Clair, Dr. Kenneth E.
 Barnes, Mahlon G.
 Campbell, Charles B.
 Evans, B. Gaylord
 Figel, Theodore J.
 Pagett, Glenn M.
 Robb, Dean L.
 Stewart, Mrs. Harold J.
 Cloud, Walton J.
 Geider, Dr. Roy A.
 Gordon, Mrs. William C.
 Simpson, John F.
 Osting, Lymond J.
 Mosiman, Lloyd B.

THE DIACONATE • 1906-1956

Officers Listed in Order of Election

Black, Oscar L.	Byrket, C. Earl	Ritter, George H.
Kaylor, Thomas H.	Figel, Theodore J.	Shimer, Ralph
Martens, Herman E.	Arbuckle, William S.	Broadlick, Robert E.
Morrison, Walter M.	Donnell, Dr. C. E.	Cloud, Walton J.
Perkins, Edgar A. Sr.	Johns, Ralph H.	Cox, Frank M.
Campbell, Ed R.	Stevenson, Dr. M. V.	Gillon, Leonard
Davenport, Frank B.	Ewing, Lewis H.	Klippel, Gustav S.
Potter, Samuel L.	Grove, E. G.	Voss, Don R.
Kelly, Dr. Walter F.	Coval, Herbert N.	Andrews, Jack
Moorhead, Robert L.	Colvin, John D.	Berkshire, Ben
Lemmon, George E.	Mutz, Harold W.	Bright, Chester E.
McFerron, E. E.	Bakemeier, Dr. O. H.	Brullow, Reuben L.
Thornton, George D.	Denny, Dr. James W.	Kightlinger, Erle A. Jr.
Carr, John	Hull, Carl H.	Long, George A.
McPheeters, Thaddeus M.	Stahl, Ralph W.	Simpson, John F.
Zoercher, Philip	Baer, Dean M.	Mutz, Oscar U.
Wagoner, Charles E.	Baldwin, Alfred M.	Ross, Malcolm
Wagoner, Walter E.	Byrne, Joe	Davis, O. K.
Stone, Carl E.	Gorman, Harry G.	Hilgedag, Raymond W.
Crawford, James	Bergstrom, Donald	Miller, LeRoy P.
Davis, Charles B.	Hildreth, Egbert S.	Mutz, Thomas R.
McMillan, Harry J.	Smith, John M.	Stone, Dr. John J.
Kramer, Daniel E.	Ware, Dr. Harry A.	Williams, Seeley Jr.
Richardson, Louis M.	Bishop, Harold D.	Wilson, James R. Jr.
Wilson, J. Edward	Ferguson, Dr. James W.	Bayless, Kenneth
Southard, Wallace W.	Gripe, Dr. O. H.	Haskens, Albert J.
Milligan, J. Stuart	Smith, Charles N.	Hitzke, Albert R.
Crowell, F. N.	Dirks, Edward F.	Huston, Jack M.
Haworth, Harlan W.	Gooch, Darrell	Kelly, John T.
Huston, Walter C.	Hecker, Edward J. Jr.	Laing, Ian
Loomis, James R.	Kramer, Wilbur E.	Mosiman, Charles E.
Craig, Seward S.	Robertson, Howard E. Jr.	Silver, C. Hal
Hoff, John E.	Beavers, Dr. Thomas H.	Bowman, Ray W.
Meek, Homer C.	Boyce, Ellsworth E.	Darmstandler, Max M.
Dirks, Howard M.	Carey, Cass I.	Head, James L.
Klare, Ralph E.	Fassnacht, George G.	Huggins, Richard E.
Stewart, Harold J.	Gigax, John F.	Maves, Harold A.
Fee, James H.	Pagett, Glenn M.	Messerlie, Robert L.
Gullion, Fay L.	Daly, William H.	Morgan, James E.
Hutchinson, A. Russell	Erikson, Oscar W.	Plotner, Harry R.
Perkins, Edgar A. Jr.	Evans, B. Gaylord	Stroud, Dr. A. Bruce
Sherburne, Dwight	Jensen, Prescott B.	Walton, Luke
Benson, R. W.	Osting, Lymond J.	Ruedlinger, Oliver C.
Crawford, Robert	Zoercher, James M.	Meek, Donald E.
Mullin, Elmer R.	Berry, H. Gaylord	Richardson, Dr. Thad T.
Mutz, Frank M.	Clark, John A.	Irwin, James W.
Ward, Harry	Lawrence, Richard E.	Waters, Floyd Jr.
Fields, Maurice D.	Ragsdale, John Paul	Slater, Ira M.
Flick, O. S.	Malvase, Max	Leonard, Hiram H.
Bayless, Arthur N.	Campbell, Charles B.	Botkin, Wendell H. Jr.
Bruck, Edward G.	Bayless, Harold F.	Martin, Harold L.
Farson, Matthew	Glore, James F.	Gorrell, Floyd N.
Reese, Max J.	Hopping, Don	Kunce, Lee C.
Finlayson, W. R.	Rasmussen, Edward	Adams, James E.

THE TRUSTEES BOARD • 1906-1956

Officers Listed in Order of Election

Friday, John W.	Newgent, L. Russell	Fairchild, Frank H.
Kingsbury, James L.	Huston, Walter C.	Robb, Dean L.
Ropkey, Fred B.	Epler, O. P.	Shick, Fred E.
Richardson, Thomas M.	Gable, George W.	Buehler, Oscar L.
Thormeyer, George	Allemong, W. B.	Collins, Irvin W.
Gelston, Henry Mills	Dehn, George W.	Woods, Merrill J.
Stilz, Fred D.	Kay, William	Eshelman, Charles V.
Campbell, W. S.	Gullion, Fay L.	Ress, George J.
Cornwell, T. J.	Prescott, Henry H.	Baldwin, Alfred M.
Brown, W. R.	Miller, Herschel S.	Erikson, Oscar W.
Reed, John E.	Mutz, Frank M.	Crump, John S.
Kingsbury, Layman D.	Booe, James M.	Koehring, Paul C.
Newcomer, Frank	Fansler, William L.	Rubin, Fred W.
Thornton, George D.	Wright, J. Harold	Orwig, Spafford
Kaylor, Thomas H.	Osburn, W. Raymond	Rubush, Ernest N.
Klippel, Gustav C.	Gauding, Charles H.	Bibler, Howard V.
Aldag, Robert	Huggins, Richard E.	Schmidt, Dr. Henry M.
Griswold, Robbins C.	Fee, James H.	Voss, Don R.
Richardson, Louis M.	Mosiman, Lloyd B.	Dick, Donald D.

THE DEACONESS BOARD • 1946-1956

Officers Listed in Order of Election

Bruck, Mrs. Louis W.	Stewart, Mrs. Allistair C.	Aldag, Mrs. Robert
Newcomer, Mrs. Frank	Stewart, Mrs. Harold J.	Pagett, Mrs. Glenn M.
Fields, Mrs. Maurice D.	Osting, Mrs. Lymond J.	Simpson, Miss Ruth
Moffat, Mrs. John H.	Perkins, Mrs. Edgar A. Jr.	Donnell, Mrs. C. E.
Bishop, Mrs. Harold D.	Stadtlander, Mrs. H. C.	Fittz, Miss Alice B.
Miller, Mrs. Herschel S.	Bernheisel, Miss Helen	Gauding, Mrs. Charles H.
Huston, Mrs. Walter C.	Gordon, Mrs. William C.	Geider, Mrs. Roy A.
Kramer, Mrs. Daniel E.	Kingsbury, Miss Virginia	Strange, Mrs. Dorothy M.
Gable, Mrs. Jane	Cunningham, Miss Martha	Luke, Mrs. Joseph R.
McCoy, Miss Mary Anne	Leaming, Mrs. Eva	Airhart, Mrs. Mary E.
Campbell, Mrs. Sam G.	Oglesby, Mrs. Tyler	Glore, Mrs. James F.
Haworth, Mrs. Harlan W.	Rodgers, Miss Hazel	Fassnacht, Mrs. George G.
Kelly, Mrs. Walter F.	Bickerton, Mrs. Floyd F.	Walser, Mrs. W. R.
Spillman, Mrs. Hope	Eastburn, Mrs. Martin	Maves, Mrs. Harold A.
Wegener, Miss Catherine		

ACTIVE CHURCH OFFICERS

1956

The Session

Beavers, Dr. Thomas H.
Booe, James M.
Campbell, Mrs. Sam G.
Dirks, Edward F.
Gripe, Dr. O. H.
Johns, Ralph H.
Richardson, Louis M.
Ritter, George H.
St. Clair, Dr. Kenneth E.

Barnes, Mahlon G.
Campbell, Charles B.
Evans, B. Gaylord
Figel, Theodore J.
Gooch, Darrell
Pagett, Glenn M.
Robb, Dean L.
Smith, Charles N.
Stewart, Mrs. Harold J.

Cloud, Walton J.
Ewing, Miss Sara C.
Fassnacht, George G.
Geider, Dr. Roy A.
Gordon, Mrs. William C.
Mosiman, Lloyd B.
Osting, Lymond J.
Simpson, John F.
Smith, John M.

The Diaconate

Bayless, Kenneth
Haskens, Albert J.
Hitzke, Albert R.
Huston, Jack M.
Kelly, John T.
Laing, Ian
Mosiman, Charles E.
Ruedlinger, Oliver C.
Silver, C. Hal
Walton, Luke

Berry, H. Gaylord
Bowman, Ray W.
Darmstandler, Max M.
Head, James L.
Huggins, Richard E.
Maves, Harold A.
Messerlie, Robert L.
Morgan, James E.
Plotner, Harry R.
Stroud, Dr. A. Bruce

Adams, James E.
Botkin, Wendell H. Jr.
Gorrell, Floyd N.
Irwin, James W.
Kunce, Lee C.
Leonard, Hiram H.
Martin, Harold L.
Meek, Donald E.
Slater, Ira M.
Waters, Floyd Jr.

The Trustees

Baldwin, Alfred M.
Collins, Irvin W.
Dick, Donald D.
Orwig, Spafford

Crump, John S.
Koehring, Paul C.
Rubin, Fred W.
Shick, Fred E.

Bibler, Howard V.
Rubush, Ernest N.
Schmidt, Dr. Henry M.
Voss, Don R.

The Deaconesses

Aldag, Mrs. Robert
Eastburn, Mrs. Martin
Luke, Mrs. Joseph R.
Pagett, Mrs. Glenn M.
Simpson, Miss Ruth

Donnell, Mrs. C. E.
Fittz, Miss Alice B.
Gauding, Mrs. Charles H.
Geider, Mrs. Roy A.
Strange, Mrs. Dorothy

Fassnacht, Mrs. George G.
Gable, Mrs. Jane Hall
Glore, Mrs. James F.
Maves, Mrs. Harold A.
Walser, Mrs. W. R.

The Church Staff • 1956

Minister	Howard W. Stone, D.D.
Minister	Emerson Olds Houser, B.D.
Minister Emeritus	John B. Ferguson, D.D.
Director of Christian Education	Mrs. Emerson Olds Houser
Minister of Music	Richard S. Orton
Church Organist	Clarence F. Elbert
Church Secretary	Miss Bessie M. Fee
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Joe Byrne
Church Treasurer and Building Fund Treasurer	Don Hopping
Custodian	Hilbert Mallory
Assistant Custodian	Charles Simmons

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

RALPH H. JOHNS, *General Chairman*

HISTORY

Edward F. Dirks, *chairman**Manuscript*

Miss Emily McAdams
chairman
Mrs. Charles N. Smith
Mrs. Harold J. Stewart
Louis M. Richardson
Edgar A. Perkins Jr.
Mrs. Seward S. Craig
Layman D. Kingsbury
John B. Ferguson,
ex officio

Finance

William S. Arbuckle
chairman
Charles B. Campbell
Mrs. Roy A. Geider
James R. Wilson Jr.
Harold D. Bishop
Mrs. O. H. Bakemeier
Mrs. Donald R. Vance
Mrs. Fred E. Shick
Mrs. Maurice D. Fields
Emerson Olds Houser
ex officio

Printing and Cuts

Glenn M. Pagett
chairman
George G. Fassnacht
R. L. Brullow
Matthew Farson
O. L. Buehler
LeRoy P. Miller
Donald E. Meek
George A. Long
Emerson Olds Houser
ex officio

PUBLICITY

MRS. JANE GABLE, *chairman*

Seward S. Craig
Luke Walton

Harold J. Stewart
Mrs. Louis M. Richardson

Howard W. Stone
ex officio

DINNER FOR ANNIVERSARY WEEK

MRS. GEORGE G. FASSNACHT, *chairman**Menu, Preparation, Place*

Mrs. George G. Fassnacht
chairman
Mrs. George A. Newton Jr.
Mrs. Harold D. Bishop
Mrs. C. T. Washburn
Mrs. Harold W. Mutz
Mrs. Joe Byrne
ex officio

Decorations

Mrs. Ben Berkshire
chairman
Miss Ruth Fee
Mrs. Martin Eastburn
Mrs. Albert J. Haskens
Miss Ruth Simpson
Mr. James H. Fee
Mrs. Emerson Olds Houser
ex officio

Ticket Sales and Promotion

Mrs. James W. Irwin
chairman
Mrs. Dean L. Robb
Mrs. Edward F. Dirks
Mrs. Carl F. Hanske
Miss Bessie Fee
ex officio

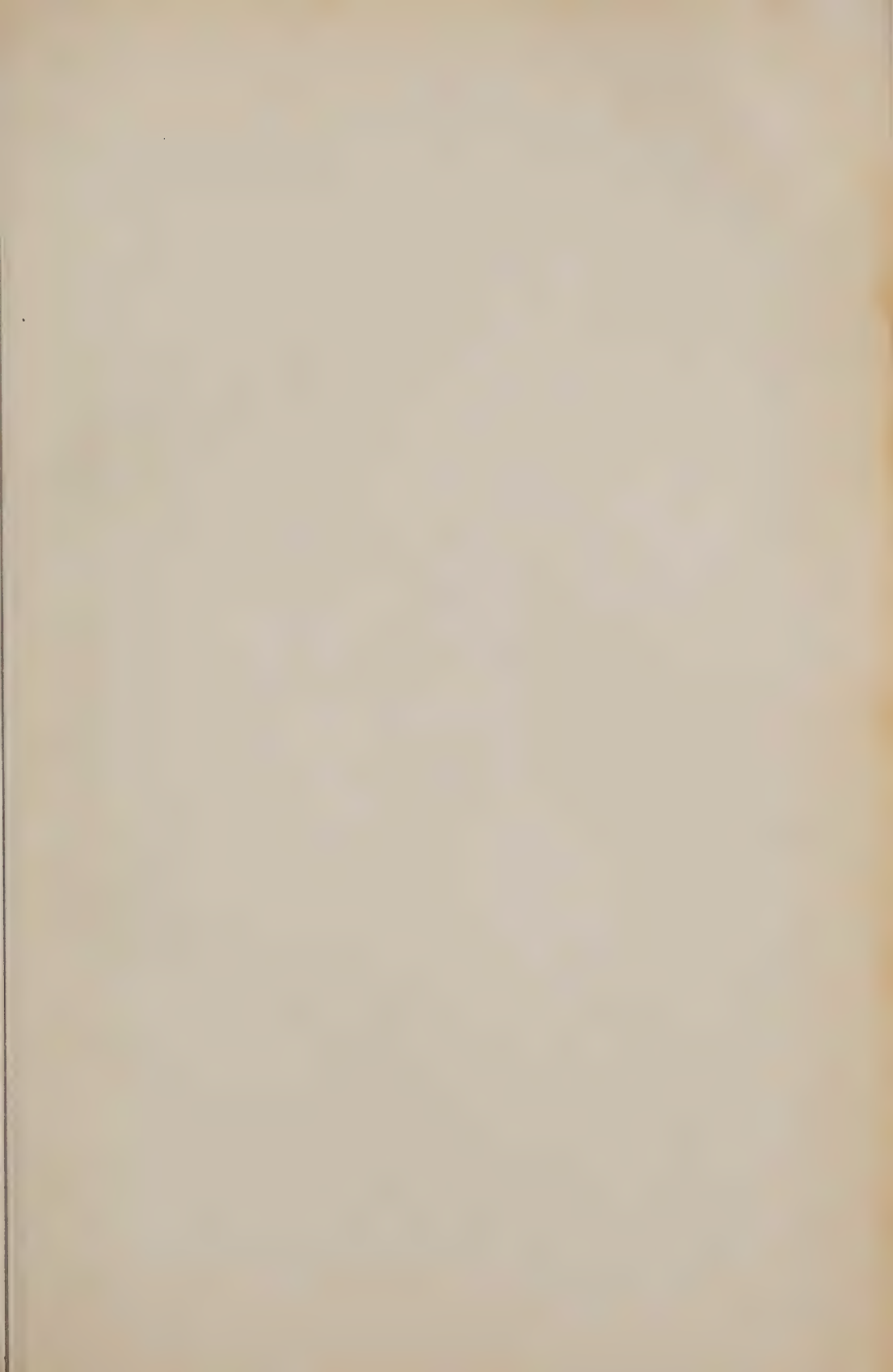
WORSHIP AND PROGRAM

JOHN M. SMITH, *chairman*

Charles N. Smith
James M. Booe
Miss Sara C. Ewing
Mrs. Edgar A. Perkins Jr.

Mrs. Joseph R. Luke
Mrs. William C. Gordon

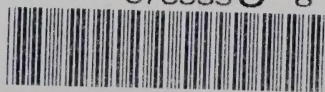
Howard W. Stone
Emerson Olds Houser
Richard S. Orton
ex officio





7/8/2016

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HF GROUP - IN

